Devotion #260

**Be A Giver**

**Matthew 5:42 (NASB)** *"Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”*

Have you ever had a need that you couldn’t figure out how to meet? The truth is, most people in the world struggle to make ends meet. No matter where they live. There are times when life throws a curve and the matter can’t be taken care of with the available means. And there are even those who have made bad choices, both intellectually and financially, that have put them in positions of need. If you have ever been there, you know what I’m talking about.

So what are we to do in those situations? I’m not talking so much about when we are in a place of need, but when someone has a need that they can’t fill. If you are in need, the first thing to do is pray and ask God for his guidance and how he wants you to approach the subject. Now he may say to get a job or work some more hours, but what about when that won’t take care of the need either. The answer is to trust Jesus. He already promised he would meet all our needs. (Philippians 4:19, Matt 6:30).

What if someone else is in need and is asking for your help? What are you to do? The Lord answers that question for us. He says we are to give to them. Plain and simple. I understand the dilemma. Most people hear that from the Lord and say, “No matter what a person asks for, I am to give it?” Not necessarily. There are those who would take advantage of people and not think anything about it. That was the religious leaders in Jesus’s day. That had greatly taken advantage of the people by elevating themselves as the spiritual leaders. When in reality they were extortioners and robbers of the poor and helpless. They took from them emotionally, physically, and financially, but none-the-less, the Lord says that even if someone we don’t like is in need, we are to give. So his instruction is that you and I are to have a heart of giving, first above anything. We are to look for ways to bless others and help anyone in need. In fact, he said it is far better to give to others than to receive something from them. (Acts 20:35)

Certainly, the Lord does not expect us to dismiss wisdom from our giving. But, he does expect for us to be givers before we think about not giving. Unfortunately, the second scenario is most often the case. Usually, when presented with a need, we will think of all the reasons why it’s not a good idea to give. And usually it centers on what our needs are. We have a bill due. We are a little short this month. We are concerned we won’t have a job in a few months. So our usual response is to store away for ourselves. It is not wrong to store for ourselves, but first and foremost the Lord wants us to be givers to anyone who asks. We don’t need to spend a lot of time trying to figure out why the person messed up or what bad decisions they have made, but to first give. God loves a cheerful giver. (1 Corinthians 9:7) He loves when his people represent him through their giving in his name. After all, he is the biggest giver of all. How many of us deserve his blessings? Have you ever done anything unworthy of God’s grace? I think so, but he continually gives to you every day, and he wants us to be like him. We are to have it in our hearts to be givers and to give as anyone has need, even if we may not understand the need. Let God take care of the details.

Many will say, that they don’t have enough to give, but think about this - God also said in **2 Corinthians 9:6 (NASB)** *“ Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully*.” This is a simple gardening illustration. The amount of seed you put in the ground will return in proportion to what you put in. If you put in a lot, you will get a lot back. If you put in little, you will get back a little. God reserves the right to determine the yield, and this is not an exercise in prosperity theology, but a simple principle that says you will get back according to how you give. If you know of someone in need, give, and let God determine the outcome. He is only looking to you to have a heart like his. Is that too much to ask considering that He gave the ultimate to meet our need of a Savior? I think not.