Lending to the Lord

Robert Harkrider · Proverbs 19:17

INTRODUCTION

- When was the last time you lent anything to the Lord?
- He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord. And he will pay back what he has given.

1 God's Attitude Toward the Poor

Proverbs 14:31; Proverbs 22:9; Proverbs 11:25

- Each of these passages and others multiplied, especially from the Proverbs, shows God's attitude toward the poor.
- He who oppresses the poor reproaches his maker. But he who honors him, that is the Lord, has mercy on the needy.
- That shows the attitude that the Lord has toward the poor, and the attitude that we ourselves ought to have toward the poor.
- We are the only Bible the careless world will read.

2 Jesus Corroborated These Proverbs in the Judgment Scene

Matthew 25:31–46

- What made them righteous and wicked was not whether they were thieves or they were immoral, but it had to do with how and what their attitude toward the poor was.
- For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.
- Inasmuch as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.
- But that isn't the finish line. That's really the beginning of a life that honors the Lord.

3 Ability and Opportunity Become Our Responsibility

Ephesians 4:28; Galatians 6:10; 1 John 3:17

- Let him labor with his hands that which is good, that he may have something to give to him who has need.
- His attitude even toward work is always thinking of others.
- The Lord uses us as his agents to help carry out his plan and providing even for those who are the poor.
- As there is ability, and then there is opportunity, that becomes our responsibility. Helping those who are in need.

4 Discern the Difference Between Need Versus Greed

Proverbs 18:9; Proverbs 24:30–34

- The fact is, we must not be enablers of wrongdoing.
- If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

- There are people who are not worthy to be helped because of their attitude.
- And so I have to discern who do I help, and I discern also how do I help.

5 Church Benevolence Is Regulated; Saints Were the Recipients

1 Timothy 5:3–16; Acts 11:27–30; Romans 15:25–27

- Even benevolence from the church is regulated first by what the family can do.
- If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith. And is worse than an unbeliever.
- No scripture illustrates relief to the whole world or to all the world.
- Although famine was throughout all the world, relief was sent to the brethren in Judea.

6 The Greatest Need of Mankind Is Salvation

1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew 28:19–20; Philippians 4:15–17

- If our energy and our resources are used simply helping in a physical way, then it takes from and detracts from the ability of the Lord's church to provide the greatest need of mankind, and that is salvation.
- Our greatest responsibility is to help those who are spiritually in need.
- As a congregation, as a collective body, our energy is therefore to spread the word as far as we can.
- Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I ask you, which side of that judgment scene do you fit on? Have you lent anything to the Lord recently? Are you generous in your giving?**

MY NOTES