

Week Six: “For Such a Time as This”

Day One: “The Gift of Giving”

Read: Matthew 6:1-4, 5:14-16 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1083, 1082 in)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, p. 77 to bottom of p. 84

Reflect: Do you ever let people know how much you are giving away?

Is it anyone else’s business? Why or why not?

Dig: What is the motivation behind giving in Matthew 6:1 that Jesus condemns?

What is the motivation for giving in secret? See verse 4.

How does Matthew 5:14-16 balance this teaching so that it is legitimate at times to give and allow others to know what we are giving?

What is the difference in motivation in Matthew 5:16 and the motivation of Matthew 6:1?

Apply: Why do you give secretly?

How would you feel about your own giving if everyone knew the amount and the motivation?

Would people tend to give praise to God? Why or why not?

Week Six: “For Such a Time as This”

Day Two: “A Sense of Destiny”

Read: Esther 4:12-14 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 545)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, bottom of p. 84 to bottom of p. 86

Reflect: Why has God entrusted you with what wealth and opportunity you do have?

What responsibility do we have as a church in such an affluent country?

Dig: Where do you see that Mordecai is confident that God will bring deliverance?

Does Mordecai believe that there is such a thing as mere coincidence?

How is the story of Joseph similar? See Genesis 50:19-21 (*FiCB*, p. 60).

Apply: According to this lesson today, you have a destiny when it comes to giving. What might that destiny be?

Are you going to fulfill it?

Week Six: “For Such a Time as This”

Day Three: “Thoughts to Consider”

Read: Galatians 6:6; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, pp. 1352, 1315)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, bottom of p. 86 to middle of p. 90

Reflect: Do you support Madison Square Church first in your giving and then give to other worthy causes? Why or why not?

Dig: According to Galatians 6:6, who is to be first on our priority list in terms of taking care of them and giving to them?

According to the 1 Corinthians passage, who has a right to a portion of your income?

Who is sowing “spiritual seed” in this passage?

What does Paul say in verse 14 about pastors’ salaries?

Apply: How can we make sure that God’s purpose for our money and our own giving is in the right order or priority?

Does your attitude toward giving to the local church need to change?

Week Six: “For Such a Time as This”

Day Four: “The Greatest Pleasure”

Read: Acts 20:35 (p. 1264 in *Freedom in Christ Bible*)

Read: *The Treasure Principle*, middle of p. 90 to end of book

Reflect: Since giving is such a joy, when have you prevented yourself or others from this joy?

Do you receive from others when they give to you or do you dampen their joy?

Dig: What is the context of this quote from Paul in Acts 20? See verses 32-34.

What besides money does Paul have in mind when he is talking about giving?

Who is it that Paul wants us to especially give to?

What evidence do you have that Paul’s giving produced fruit (trust, love, joy)?
See verses 36-38.

Apply: How could your life and your giving patterns improve so that you have more joy in your life?

Week Six: “For Such a Time as This”
Day Five: “Joy in Giving”

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35 (NIV)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.