

Lesson 60 – You Did It To Me

I was reading and studying today when the Lord gave me an insight into His heart. I had started out by reading verses relating to tithing. You all remember these verses:

Tithing

Deuteronomy 26:13

"Then you shall say before the Lord your God: 'I have removed the holy tithe from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them.

Malachi 3:6-11

"For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob, yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts. But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'

"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings, you are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," says the Lord of hosts.

The verses above identified to whom the tithe is to be delivered; the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow; you could say people of need couldn't you. But you know when I first looked at this list of people (Levite, stranger, fatherless & widow) I couldn't understand why the Lord had included the stranger on the list. But He helped me to understand "the stranger" through what He taught me about widows. You see in **1 Timothy 5:3,8, &16** it states:

*Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first **learn to show piety at home** and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God....But 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.....If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and **do not let the church be burdened**, that it may relieve those who are really widows.*

From these verses we understand that we are responsible to **provide** for our own families. We are not to "**burden the church**" with this. No, we are told to *Honor widows who are really widows*. Therefore, we can gather from this that we are to care for those "widows" who have no family to turn to. They are truly alone as is the stranger mentioned previously. (Note: The stranger is further defined in Zec. 7:10 where he is referred to as an alien [a person of another

race, family or nation] or you could think of them as refugees.) The stranger like the widow is a person without adequate resources. He is a stranger. **He is alone and in need.** You could say all these are people who don't really have a back-up in place. Have you ever gone through a period in your life where you had no back-up? I have and for me that period of my life was scary and stressful.

To sum up, we are responsible for helping our family out in times of need. The word says this is looked upon as an acceptable act (righteous act) before God. Second, the tithe is to be delivered to those persons noted in scripture (Levite, stranger, fatherless & widow). The Lord will lead you to a person of need; we just have to listen. (To learn more on the Mechanics of Tithing go to: <http://www.takehisheart.com/givingtithesbiblething.htm>)

The Needy

As I progressed on this journey of gaining insight into the Lord's heart He next lead me to study the "needy". So, of course I decided to look up the definition. **Needy is defined as being in want, poverty stricken; marked by want of affection, attention or emotional support.** And in regards to the needy the Lord said this,

Deuteronomy 15:11

"For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.' (Note: in the next verse they referred to "your brother" as a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman but don't forget; we (gentiles) have been grafted into the family of God's chosen people through our faith in the Lord.)

Deuteronomy 24:14

"You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates."

Psalm 35:10

All my bones shall say, "Lord, who is like You, delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?"

Psalm 40:17

But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.

Psalm 72:12

For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper.

Proverbs 14:31

He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9

Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

From these verses we can see that the Lord loves (wants the best for) us. He does not love anyone less because they are poor or needy. This is because your class or station in life is of

no matter to Him. **Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11, Galatians 2:6 and Ephesians 6:9** tells us that God shows no partiality. He cares for all alike including the poor, the needy, the widow, the fatherless, preachers, teachers, the homeless, engineers and garbage collectors, Hebrews and Gentiles. **He wants the best for everyone.**

Remember the definition of needy was **being in want, poverty stricken, marked by want of affection, attention or emotional support.** When we look at this definition we realize we all have gone through times where we have been in need either of financial assistance, affection, attention or emotional support. We have all experienced neediness; no matter our class, station, race, age or gender, no matter where we are in life or where we have been in life. We have all experienced neediness in one form or another at some point in our lives.

Now that we understand both the definition of needy and who the needy are; I think it would be good to go back and read all the verses we included which relate to the needy. Read them now from this new perspective.

The Lord said in **Proverbs 14:31** ***he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.*** Thus **when we have mercy on those in need (no matter what type of need) we are honoring the Lord.** **I think we can also tell from reading these verses that having mercy on the needy is not limited to times of tithing.** No, we should keep a spirit of compassion within ourselves at all times.

Honor Him

In the last section we read the verse from Proverbs that stated we are honoring our king when we have mercy. So what is honoring? The definition of **honor (verb)** is **to regard or treat someone with admiration or respect; to regard or treat with honor (esteem, recognition, merited respect); to give special recognition to; to confer honor on; or to live up to or fulfill the terms of.** Therefore, at the most basic level, let's look at our King and why we should honor Him.

Jesus declares in **John 18:37** ***"You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*** And He said in verse **36** ***"My kingdom is not of this world.*** You see the word confirms that Jesus is our King, our Lord. And then the first line of **Psalm 97** states ***The Lord reigns (reigns - to possess or exercise sovereign power*).*** Therefore Jesus should be treated with admiration and respect because He is our King. And we honor Him because He reigns. (Note: Did you notice the word states **reigns** present tense as opposed to **reigned** which would be past tense.)

The second part for us to discuss here comes from the definition of honor itself, which is **to live up to or fulfill the terms of.** We as believers in Christ should try to follow after the example He left us. We should try to **live up to** or honor the commandments He gave us. For example,

Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Mark 12:28-31

Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Jesus answered Him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the

Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these."

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Matthew 7:12

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Thus when we are obedient to the commands He set forth we are honoring our Lord and King. And from the message these verses deliver we can see the Lord cares for all His people. He is asking us to be merciful, to love one another and He is asking us to be a blessing to others by treating them as we would like to be treated ourselves. Are you beginning to see into the Lord's heart?

You Did It to Me

The next step that the Lord took me to in understanding His heart was this; He reminded me of these verses from Matthew.

Matthew 25: 31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You a drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they also will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

"Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Lord is teaching us to treat others with the same regard we would treat Him. He said it this way, *"inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."* Can you see the progression of His teaching here? Not only are we to use His tithe to ease

the burdens of those in need but we are to care and minister unto them as if we were ministering unto the Lord. You see the Lord values all His children. It is not the Lord's desire for any of His children to suffer in any way. It is His desire for us to be good to one another. You probably heard the old expression "We are His hands and feet." **2 Corinthians 9:6-15 states:**

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

As it is written:

"He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Yes, Our God is a loving God. It is His desire for us to be a blessing to others (Remember we are His hands and feet). Your actions will not only be a blessing to others but the word tells us that they will also be a witness to others as well. Honor the Lord Jesus by learning His ways. (To learn more about His ways visit this address <http://www.takehisheart.com/index.html>)

**Additional Verses to study regarding the power and authority of our Lord:*

Matthew 7:29 Taught with authority

Matthew 8:17 Wind & Sea Obey

Matthew 28:18 All authority in heaven and earth...

Mark 2: 10 Forgives paralytics sins

Verses regarding man submitting to authority:

Romans 13:3

Acts 5:29