



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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EXCELLENCE Towards GOD

Message preached Sunday Morning, December 7, 2025

YEARS AGO there was a lady who sent the church some gifts (around Christmas time) labeled, "Happy Birthday, Jesus". They had the label on them, like most gifts... "To: Jesus – From: her!" They were given to the church before the service...we all discussed how nice it was. After the service, we gathered around curious what was inside. I went ahead and opened each gift to look at them...it was a nice gift.

As I was opening the gifts, another lady in the church, who didn't much like me, said, "Oh, so you are opening the gift to Jesus?"

Obviously, said in a way that meant it was for Jesus...not me!

I chuckled, because I wasn't sure what she thought was going to happen, or how Jesus opened His gifts.

NOW: That is a silly account...but I believe that is one of the MAIN REASONS that we have a hard time GIVING—TITHING—SERVING—etc.

Because often we are comparing what we have left over with what the other person or ministry actually has...they have a lot!

- * I am not going to give to Kenneth Copeland...they are millionaires...I am in need to pay my electric bill.
- * I am not going to give to the church...Pastor Thad says they are doing good, so if the church needs help Pastor Thad can do it.
- * I know there is a work day or things need to be done around the church, but I am busy...I am not feeling well...etc. Pastor Thad can do it...he is a young whiper-snaper!

YOU MAY BE curious on how the opening story and this last part come together? Stick with me!

THE PROBLEM IS: This kind of thinking does two things:

1.) It keeps us in disobedience.

When we should be giving...we don't because of who we are told to give to.

2.) It removes us from the blessings of God.

God wants to bless us...increase us...but we won't sow seed (in action or finances).

Luke 6:38 – "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

NOTICE: A couple things...

a.) All blessings come from heaven...from God.

b.) No blessings come directly from God. God uses men!

God uses you! God is my Source...God uses people!

UNDERSTAND: If you are NOT that person for others...then don't be surprised when THOSE people don't show up for you.

c.) What's your measure.

Many of you also disobey God in what you give...He says \$100 and you give a dollar.

"With the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

MARK HANKINS: The same size hole that you give through is the same size hole you receive through."

Some of you finding a quarter in the parking lot is your harvest...because you have not been obedient in your sowing.

BELOVED: God uses men...always has, always will!

Guess what? You are that man or woman!

God desires to use you and as a part of you being that extension of His hand...He will bless you good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Colossians 3:14-24

These are directions for putting on the NEW MAN in Christ. Therefore, acting different than our old man.

14 And above all ***these things put on charity***, which is the bond of perfectness.

"Bond of perfectness" – completeness in life

James 1:4 – Perfect and complete lacking nothing.

NOTE: Love has the emphasis on looking outward and not inward.

15 And ***let the peace of God rule in your hearts***, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 ***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*** in all wisdom; teaching and ***admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs***, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And ***whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus***, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

UNDERSTAND BELOVED: Whatever you do..whether it is in your speech towards others... or what you do for others...do it in the name of the Lord!

NOTICE: A couple things:

a.) We are SUPPOSED to be doing and saying things to each other.

When we keep all of our doing and saying to ourselves...we are missing what God has told us to do.

b.) We are supposed to be doing it with thanksgiving, not complaining.

NOTICE: Often we are NOT happy nor thankful to give to others...to serve others... but if we are doing it right, we will be thankful.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NASB)

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves;

4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

(Then it goes on to tell us that do things like Jesus, who became a servant)

BELOVED: Our focus should NEVER be on ourselves, when we have the opportunity or direction to give or do things for others.

18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:
NOTICE: It goes through the parts of a family...and servants...and describes their rolls towards others.

So it really is saying...whatever you do...do it for others.

But then it gives an synopsis on this section.

THIS IS THE KEY to what we are talking about today!

23 And ***whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;***
 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

- a.) Don't focus on the person that you are doing it unto (outside of loving them).
- b.) Do it all (giving, service, tithing, loving, peace-keeping) to the Lord.
 THE LADY who gave the gift to Jesus. Good!
 How do we bring our tithes? Seed?
1 Corinthians 10:31 – “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God.”
- c.) It is HE who rewards you...increases you...blesses you.
 Luke 6:38 – He does it...through people!
- d.) Do it HEARTILY!
“Heartily” – breath or all that you have.
 With vitality (strong and active, energetic, lively).
 To a great degree, enthusiastically, completely.

Be aggressive in your giving. Enthusiastic in your giving.

WHY? Because you are giving to the KING OF KINGS, the LORD OF LORDS, the GIVER OF LIFE, the GOD OF MORE THAN ENOUGH, etc.

He is the Rewarder...the Blesser!

- * So you feel directed to give to KCM...your flesh says, I need more help than they do! But you are not giving it to KCM...you are giving it to God, and God is wanting to bless you. God rewards.
- * You see or hear of a need in the church...you flesh says, “Well, Pastor Thad is doing okay, the church has made it through worse.” But you are not giving to Grace Fellowship of Morehead...you are giving it to God, and God is wanting to bless you. God rewards.
- * Work day at the church! You don't feel like it? Work day for Jesus... helping Him out! He is wanting to bless you! God rewards.
- * Let me put this in there too...when you go to work...who are you working for? Remember, do it unto God...He rewards.

Change your PERSPECTIVE...give to God instead of people!

TODAY: You tithed or you gave in the offering.

MY QUESTION: Who did you tithe to? Who did you give to?
 Your storehouse? God?

REMEMBER who we are robbing when we don't bring it into our storehouse? Yup, God!

UNDERSTAND: We give TO GOD, through our STOREHOUSE!

We give TO GOD, through ministries...pastors...etc.

REMEMBER: The lady with the gift to Jesus? Who received it? Her storehouse!

Excellence Towards God

I was talking to the Lord about this message and asked Him what He was trying to say to us...it wasn't very long before EXCELLENCE rose up in my spirit.

God is demanding excellence in us in everything we do.

NOT just excellence towards others (we can deem them unworthy), but excellence towards God (remember where His body is located).

Daniel 5:12 – “Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.”

DANIEL was known for an excellent spirit.

Daniel 6:3 – “Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.”

DANIEL'S promotion came because of that excellent spirit.

Perhaps your promotion is on the other end of your excellence.

REMEMBER: Our key to excellence is to point our excellence towards God, Himself...not the people we are giving it to.

“Excellence” – doing your absolute BEST with the resources currently available to you.

Excellence for ONE may look different than excellence for another.

Your excellence TODAY may be different than your excellence tomorrow as your resources increase.

UNDERSTAND: We can all strive for excellence in what we do...with what we currently have. God will NEVER ask you to give what you don't have...but He may ask you to give all you have (faith).

But NOT to break you...but to bless you!

ILLUSTRATION: President Jimmy Carter tells about an interview he sat through with an Admiral, for a promotion.

The Admiral asked how he had stood in his class at the Naval Academy. President Carter said he swelled his chest and answered, “Sir, I stood 59th in a class of 820!” He then sat back and waited for his congratulations.

But the Admiral then asked, ***“Did you do your best?”***

Carter started to say yes...but remembered who he was sitting in front of and gulped and said, “No, sir. I didn't always do my best.”

The Admiral looked at him for a long time and finally asked, ***“Why not?”***

President Carter said that question drove him through the rest of his life.

Conclusion

My question to you is this...are you doing your best for God? Towards His people? Towards Grace Fellowship of Morehead? Towards other ministries? Are you pursuing excellence in all that you do at work?

NOT in comparison to others...I do much more than many, but not as much as others in other churches...am I doing MY best for God?

If your answer is anything but a YES (which it may be); then my last question is WHY NOT? Did you forget that you are working for the King? Serving the King?

Paul said he left it all on the battle field.

Jesus said He did everything His father told him to do.

What is your assessment of your life?

BELOVED: My focus today isn't to demean or belittle ANYONE...but to challenge us to quit limiting how and what we do, because of who we are giving it to.

When you don't give...you are NOT giving to God.

When you are lazy at work...you are LAZY towards God.

When you don't show up for work days at the church...you are NOT showing up for God.

When you give a half effort...you are giving a HALF EFFORT towards God.