

The Joy of Giving Away the Kingdom

I. Jesus modeled for us the generosity and joy of the Kingdom of God.

- A. There is always a cost to generosity—sowing before reaping, loss before gain, risk before reward (John 12:23-26).
- B. Jesus experienced supernatural joy before and after He gave His life for us (Hebrews 12:2; 1:8-9).

II. The reward of generosity and righteousness

- A. God's chosen fast (Isaiah 58:5-12)
- B. Happiness, abundance, and generosity go together (II Corinthians 9:6-15).
 - 1. Notice the joy of key terms in this passage: reap generously, cheerful giver, bless you abundantly, all that you need, increase, enlarge, enriched in every way, thanksgiving to God, overflowing thanks, praise, surpassing grace.
 - 2. God is the most generous of all (II Corinthians 9:15). He is also pleased when we give and enter into the life and joy of "the indescribable gift."

III. Investing with God (Matthew 25:14-30)

- A. What are the bags of gold? They include the concept of our wealth, but they are more succinctly the riches of the Kingdom (authority of God) (Matthew 10:5-8).
- B. Investment is specific and intentional, requiring faith (risk), and expecting a return (Matthew 10:11-15; 5:11-16).
- C. There is joy in a Kingdom investment (e.g., sending out the 72) (Luke 10:1-3, 8-12, 16-24).
- D. Our investment portfolio is similar to the one Jesus had. Note the blessing, reward, and joy of generosity (Isaiah 61).

*Mike Hudgins
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