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5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Lady & Her Son Were Givers

“I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” (2 Timothy 1:5 NIV)

I once knew this lady who was a giver. She had a son who was also a giver. When the son got older he married and moved to New Mexico. Over the course of time the couple had three children. They pastored two small churches. One was in Oklahoma and the other in New Mexico. This young man's father decided to give the son his inheritance early. The son started a business (as well as pastoring) and opened a barbecue restaurant that sold sandwiches, brisket, pork ribs, potato salad and baked beans along with non-alcoholic beverages and iced tea served in quart jars. The restaurant eventually became a buffet.

The small town didn't really welcome newcomers to their business district. So it was a struggle for this couple and their children.

One day this young man did something that this little town is still talking about. It went to a priceless menu and didn't charge customers for their food. There was a small can at the front of the restaurant that a customer could give a donation if they wanted to.

It wasn't that their food was bad and they couldn't sell it, in fact it was very good. A man traveling the United States that was visiting barbecue restaurants, said the food was good, even better than most establishments.

Some people ran out of the door when they found no prices on the meals. Others took advantage of the restaurant and would come in daily to eat and would leave 50 cents or a dollar in the donation can. This experiment revealed the hearts of men. People are either givers or takers.

Others would say, “I see what you are doing here” and would give as much as \$500 for a meal.

An out of town customer working in the news field, got hold of the story and wanted an interview. The establishment was founded on Christian principles and values. Free Bibles, Christian music, and free food. Who would be so kind to give all their profits away and live only on 10%? The rest was given to Christian causes.

This is a true story, but what is even more amazing is that,

“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” (Psalm 37:25)

Questions

- 1 What is the difference in a giver and a taker?
- 2 Does God bless those that give to the poor?
- 3 We should feed the hungry and help others.
True or False
- 4 What kind of giver does God love?
- 5 How should we honor the Lord?

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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DKM
10065 Sun Ridge Circle
Rogers, AR 72756 U.S.A.
delessons.org

Answer Key

1 What is the difference in a giver and a taker?

“A man may give freely, and still his wealth will be increased; and another may keep back more than is right, but only comes to be in need.” (Proverbs 11:24 Bible in Basic English)

2 Does God bless those that give to the poor?

“He who has a generous eye will be blessed, For he gives of his bread to the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9 NKJV)

3 We should feed the hungry and help others.

True

“Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.” (Isaiah 58:10 New Living Translation)

4 What kind of giver does God love?

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV)

5 How should we honor the Lord?

“Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;” (Proverbs 3:9 NKJV)