

The Blessed War - Part IV  
Blessing Others With Our Resources  
Digging Deeper  
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And so we come to the end of this four part series on waging war against indifference toward the needs of others by blessing them with our words, our actions, our gifts and talents, and our resources. Words of affirmation can heal a wounded heart. Actions let others know we see them and genuinely care. And using our gifts and talents in our own unique way personalizes our blessing and makes it real.

But sharing our resources to help those in need is perhaps our greatest blessing because it does more than bless others. It requires sacrifice and makes us more like Christ.

There are a number of things about blessing others with our resources that were mentioned in this weeks message that are worth remembering.

**First, we must give regularly (1 Cor 16:2 NLT).** There will always be those who are needy, and opportunities to bless them by sharing our resources will always be there.

**Second, we must give proportionally and eagerly, giving according to what we have, not what we don't have (2 Cor 8:11-12).** Those who have more must share more. They must follow the lead of those who are tested by troubles and are poor but are nevertheless faithful in their giving and are filled with abundant joy and rich generosity. The poor often give not

only what they can afford, but far more. And they do it of their own free will (2 Cor 8:2-3 NLT, Mark 12:41-44).

**And third, we must support one another with our giving, helping those in need and accepting help when we need it (2 Cor 8:14).** We were created by God to be interdependent, sharing in both the giving and the receiving. We must provide for those who have given so much to us, be they parents, teachers or pastors (Gal 6:6) and willingly receive a harvest of what we need from the seeds we have planted in others when our time comes (1 Cor 9:11).

**But most importantly, real giving begins and ends with a willingness to sacrifice, and that comes from being truly thankful for what God has given us.**

Being thankful changes everything.

When we are thankful for what we have, we not only see those in need, we want to share what we have with them (watch this weeks message in music video to see what that looks like). Our heart is filled with compassion and generosity, and giving to others becomes a way of life.

When we are thankful for what we have, there is no longer anything holding us back from giving some of what we have away. The tyranny of enough is never enough ends. The chains of shame and pride that come from comparing ourselves to others are broken. And the drive to measure up to the worlds view of our individual worth is gone forever.

But more than anything else, when we are thankful for what Christ

sacrificed for us on the cross, we willingly sacrifice what we have for those in need.

That makes us more like him.

And that is what giving, and life, are really all about.

**Key Verse:** So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness (Colossians 2:6-7).

**Key Message:** Real giving begins and ends with a willingness to sacrifice, and that comes from being truly thankful for what God has given us.

**Message in Music:**

Thankful, by Josh Groban

<https://youtu.be/OPDimGnpv4g>

**Discussion Questions:**

Here are some biblically based reasons for giving:

1. It is pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:16)
2. It is being obedient to God (Deuteronomy 15:11, 16:17)
3. It is the right thing to do (Psalm 112:5-6)
4. I will be blessed in return (Proverbs 11:25, Luke 6:38)
5. I am serving Christ (Matthew 25:35-45)

6. I am ready and eager to help the poor (Romans 12:13)
7. I would want someone to help me if I became poor (Matthew 7:12)
8. I need to discipline myself so I never become greedy or start to give grudgingly. (Proverbs 21:26, Deuteronomy 15:10)
9. Jesus commands us to love others (John 13:34-35)
10. What we have on earth is temporary, what we will receive in heaven is eternal (Matthew 6:19-20)
11. Others have needs that are greater than mine (Philippians 2:4)
12. I am thankful for what I have and want to share it with others (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
13. I want to be more like Christ and sacrifice myself for others (Eph 5:1-2)
14. If I give sparingly, I will reap sparingly, and if I sow bountifully, I will reap bountifully (2 Cor 9:6)
15. I want to honor the leaders of the church and all they do for me and others like me (1 Timothy 5:17)

Before we begin our discussion tonight, take a minute and write down the answers to the following questions. Then let's share what motivates us to give and why. Please don't share your answers with others until we begin our discussion so we can see what motivates us to give individually and as a group.

When it comes to giving,

What motivates you the most?

What motivates you the least?

What would motivate you to give more or more often if you actually believed it to be true and were willing to act on it?