



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Leaders Are Givers!

NOVEMBER 30, 2011

Dave DePue / (785) 249 7604 / www.capitolcom.org / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

*This study/devotional is prepared for government leaders in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Kansas government. We trust that these summary notes are inspiring and encouraging. **Please note:** I will be traveling considerably in December and may not be developing regular weekly studies. I apologize!*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said: ***"It is more blessed to give than to receive"*** (Acts 20:35). We prefer to be among those who place money in the Salvation Army collection bucket rather than being in a position to need the organization's services. A second reason for being generous is the positive impact on our attitude. There is no joy in being grumpy like Scrooge, the character in Dickens' classic novel, A Christmas Carol. The wealthy King Solomon gave us a third reason for sharing: ***"Naked we come into the world, naked we depart"*** (Ecclesiastes 5:15a). Jesus told the most important reason for giving:

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

Matthew 6:20-21 "Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."¹

Winning God's favor by demonstrating a giving heart is an eternal investment. Jesus used a parable to tell of a farmer who chose to pay all of his laborers a full day's pay, regardless of the time that they began work. The landowner responded to critics by explaining that it was his money to spend. This was not justice but benevolence (Mathew 20). In another parable, Jesus gave us an example of winning favor in a fraudulent manner, taking from one to give to another. The steward falsified accounts, giving away some of the company's goods to earn temporary favor with his own kind after his job ended (Luke 16:1-9).

CONCLUSION

These notes are not meant to be a complete treatise on giving, only to keep our attention focused on eternal things. Certainly money is not all we can give. Expertise, knowledge, talent, time, and wisdom can benefit others and cost us little. We see such sharing in legislative committees, agency teams, and Cabinet meetings. ***God loves a cheerful giver*** (2 Corinthians 9:7).

A Prayer:

Father God, thank You for Your indescribable gift, the gift of Your Son on the cross in payment for our sins. Your grace is not earned but a free gift. This frees us to give all that we have here in this life as we look to our eternal home with You. Help me to be cheerful in sharing what You have blessed me with. I pray in Christ's Name. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House Publishers).2007.

DEVOTIONAL DISCUSSION

LEADERSHIP/STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12 NOON, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM: 264 WEST