

What is Wrong with Your Act of Generosity?

Reflection: Whosoever stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard (Proverbs 21:13).

[This is not a message on Tithing]

So, you give, but it is never given unto you as promised in *Luke 6:38*. No one comes to your aid in your time of need - not even those who have benefited from your generosity.

The Bible says when you help the poor, you lend to the Lord; and He will reward your act of kindness (Proverbs 19:17). The Lord knows that the poor are more prone to assault, abuse and humiliation, and therefore, need to be protected. Nowhere is it written that we will be rewarded for giving towards selfish and vain causes or helping the wealthy amass more wealth. On the contrary, the Bible says: *He that oppresses the poor to increase his riches, and he that gives to the rich, both will come to poverty (Proverbs 22:16).*

To further break it down for you: God frowns on those who neglect to help the poor and the needy from the plenty they have been blessed with. Did you know that beloved? Read it for yourself in *Proverbs 21:13* and *Ezekiel 16:48-49*. God expects us to be good stewards of what He has entrusted to us. Sharing our time, talent, resources, and all the good things He has given us, is being a good steward (Matthew 25:34-40). Let's move on to the next point!

As followers of Jesus Christ, our giving should not be motivated by rewards. We are to give from the goodness of our heart, without expecting anything in return (Hebrews 13:16). Nonetheless, God will reward our giving because He never goes back on His promises (Luke 6:38, Proverbs 19:17). Give, for the right reasons, and to the deserving, bearing in mind that, HOW God rewards you (if He chooses to), WHEN He rewards you, and WHAT He rewards you with are His prerogative.

Money quickly comes to people's mind when *Luke 6:38* is recalled. They then feel inadequate to extend generosity as expected. But remember that there are other ways to be generous than giving material things. What has God blessed you with? As you give, out of what He has blessed you with, He will gladly attend to all that concerns you, as well (Proverbs 11:25).

Shalom!