

Matthew 25: 34-36

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

CHARITY

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Definitions:

“the act of giving money, food, or other kinds of help to people who are poor, sick, etc.” – Merriam-Webster

Synonym:

Grace – “Unmerited assistance”

Etymology:

late Old English, "benevolence for the poor," also "Christian love in its highest manifestation," from Old French *charité* "(Christian) charity, mercy, compassion; alms; charitable foundation" (12c.), from Latin *caritatem* (nominative *caritas*) "costliness; esteem, affection," from *carus* "dear, valued," – Online Etymology Dictionary

Agapē (brotherly love) – translated as charity 24 times in the KJV

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Cory’s Definition: An individual’s duty to love those in need through the giving of one’s possessions, time, or support.

Etymology:

late Old English, “beneficence”, from Old English *carig* “pity”, from its highest manifestation, from Old French *charité* “(Christian) charity, mercy, compassion; alms; charitable foundation” (12c.), from Latin *caritatem* (nominative *caritas*) “costliness; esteem, affection,” from *carus* “dear, valued,” – Online Etymology Dictionary

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BIBLE EXAMPLES

Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37

vs 25 – “what shall I do to inherit eternal life”

vs 29 – lawyer tries to justify lack of charity

vs 33 – Good Samaritan had compassion

vs 34 – gave his time and possessions

vs 35 – gave his money

vs 37 – “Go and do likewise”

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Poor Widow – Luke 21:1-4

An example of a charitable attitude.

She made a true sacrifice.

BIBLE COUNTEREXAMPLES

Rich Young Ruler– Mark 10:17-22

vs 17 – “What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

vs 21 – He only lacks one thing – a charitable attitude.

We must also take this seriously. Avoid excuses / justifications.

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Hypocrites - Matthew 6:1-4

Their focus is on personal recognition.

Modern day social media / viral videos.

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

- We are serving God:
 - + **Heb 13:16**
 - + Prov 19:17, Prov 21:13
 - + Matt 25:31-41

But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

- Regardless of how much we have
- Must be a sacrifice

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

- We are serving God:
 - + Heb 13:16
 - + **Prov 19:17, Prov 21:13**
 - + Matt 25:31-41

*He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord,
And He will pay back what he has given.*

- We will have our reward.

*Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor
Will also cry himself and not be heard.*

- God will remember our neglect when we are in need.

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

- We are serving God:
 - + Heb 13:16
 - + Prov 19:17, Prov 21:13
 - + **Matt 25:31-41**

⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

- Clearly important to our eternal judgement
- Giving of necessities
- Hospitality
- Visiting the lonely
- Love for all

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

- We are serving God:
 - + Heb 13:16
 - + Prov 19:17, Prov 21:13
 - + Matt 25:31-41

- Others have been charitable to us:
 - + **Individuals**
 - + Christian / Church
 - + Acts 4:32-35
 - + God
 - + James 1:17
 - + Matt 20:28
 - + Eph 2:8-9

- Materially:
 - + Financial help when in need
 - + Meals
 - + Gifts for birthday, graduation, wedding, etc.

- Time / Support
 - + Moving
 - + Home / vehicle repairs
 - + General services

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³²Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

- The church takes care of each other first.

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Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- God has given us everything and the means to achieve what we have.
- We have no right to anything we own.
- He expects us to be good stewards.

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just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

- We can never outgive Jesus.

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For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- We are underserving of this gift.

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

- We have an abundance
- Comparing ourselves to others can skew our perspective.

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE



2020 US Census

- It takes the top .1% just 9 days to make more than the average American makes in a year.
- Money that would solve all of our financial “problems”
- We tend to focus on those who have more than us.

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE



2020 US Census

- Extreme poverty – *“a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information”* (United Nations)
- World Bank set the international poverty line at \$1.90 / day
 - + 650 million people (ourworldindata.org)
- It takes the average American just 5 days to make more than those in extreme poverty make in a year.

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

- We have an abundance
 - + **1 Tim 6:17-19**
 - + Luke 12:33
 - + Acts 20:35

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

- *We are to be charitable according to our riches*
- *Trust in God*

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

- We have an abundance
 - + 1 Tim 6:17-19
 - + **Luke 12:33**
 - + Acts 20:35

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

- *Context: Trust God to take care of our needs*
- *Put the current needs of the poor over our potential future needs.*

WHY TO BE CHARITABLE

- We have an abundance
 - + 1 Tim 6:17-19
 - + Luke 12:33
 - + **Acts 20:35**

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

- *Paul showed us how to be charitable with good works.*

HOW TO BE MORE CHARITABLE

- Habit:
 - + **2 Cor 10:5**
 - + Matt 7:12

casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

- We must work to create charitable habits, so they are second nature.
- Look for opportunities daily
- Be ready / Budget for it

HOW TO BE MORE CHARITABLE

- Habit:
 - + 2 Cor 10:5
 - + **Matt 7:12**

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- Put ourselves in their shoes

HOW TO BE MORE CHARITABLE

- Habit:
 - + 2 Cor 10:5
 - + Matt 7:12

- Love:
 - + **Isaiah 58:7**
 - + 1 John 3:17

*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
And that you bring to your house the poor
who are cast out;*

*When you see the naked, that you cover him,
And not hide yourself from your own flesh?*

- If we love those around us, we will not hesitate to help.

HOW TO BE MORE CHARITABLE

- Habit:
 - + 2 Cor 10:5
 - + Matt 7:12

- Love:
 - + Isaiah 58:7
 - + **1 John 3:17**

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

- Are we prioritizing ourselves over others?
- Making excuses / assumptions to avoid helping?
 - + It was their own mistakes that got them in that situation.
 - + They don't really need help
 - + Giving won't actually help them.
 - + Are we right 100% of the time?

HOW TO BE MORE CHARITABLE

- Habit:
 - + 2 Cor 10:5
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- Love:
 - + Isaiah 58:7
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- Sacrifice:
 - + **Luke 14:13-14**
 - + Our Lifestyles

But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

- Giving from our leftovers is not sacrifice
- We are repaid in Heaven

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- Habit:

- + 2 Cor 10:5
- + Matt 7:12

- Love:

- + Isaiah 58:7
- + 1 John 3:17

- Sacrifice:

- + Luke 14:13-14
- + **Our Lifestyles**

- We have gotten used to extremely comfortable lifestyles
- There are many who do not have what they need to survive.
- How much could we set aside to help those in need?
- How much time could we devote?

