

Giving and Lending to Individuals

Wise or Foolish

Matthew 6:1-4

Introduction:

- We live in a prosperous country
 1. Many love to s_____ money.
 2. Most hate to p_____ bills.
- For the Christian
 1. Money is _____ to be all about you.
 2. Money is to be all about _____.
- Jesus deals specifically with giving and lending to individuals, but understanding the culture is important to understanding this verse.
 1. Should we give to EVERYONE who requests money from us?
 2. Should we lend to EVERYONE who wants to borrow from us?

To whom should you give?

- The situation:
 1. The action of the one making the request for money is b_____ (the Greek word is in the a tense that emphasizes a continuous request and so the ESV translates it as “begs”).
 2. The beggars of Jesus’s day:
 - a. Were incapable of w_____ due to some disability;
 - b. Had one set of c_____;
 - c. Depended upon the charity of others to survive and so used donations to meet their n_____.
- The command – *give to the one who begs you* (This assumes the giver has something to give).
- Applications
 1. A foolish application
 - a. Giving money to beggars on the street – today, many do not spend the money given them on their n_____ but their addictions.
 - b. Giving money to people who are in a pickle, enabling their poor m_____ of money.

2. A wise application
 - a. Pay directly for the n_____ (buy the food; pay the utility bill).
 - b. Refer them to the Community Good Samaritan Fund who s_____ people and so do not enable bad habits.

To whom should you lend?

- The situation – a person wants to b_____ from you.
- The commanded action – the Greek word
 1. The command here is NOT to l_____ them money.
 2. The command of “not turning away”
 - a. The word is wrongly translated as “refuse” by the ESV. This word is used both inside and outside the Bible in Greek literature and never means “refuse” anywhere else. Commentaries ONLY cite this verse as having that meaning.
 - b. The word is in a voice that means “don’t _____ turned away.”
 - c. Thus, a person is to f_____ the request.
- The people making the request to borrow (in ancient times)
 1. Were generally p_____.
 2. The reason was for a legitimate n_____ (Deut 15:7-11) – the lender was not to charge i_____ (Ex 22:25), and the law specifically commands lending to such people.
- Applications
 1. A foolish application
 - a. Requiring ourselves to lend to u_____ - Jesus was dealing with Jews lending to Jews.
 - b. Lending for any reason – there must be a n_____.
 - c. Lending out your life s_____.
 2. A wise application
 - a. Lend out of your e_____ to believers in need.
 - b. Don’t lend to believers who are unwilling to w_____ (2 Thess 3:10).
 - c. Lend with the attitude of expecting n_____ to be repaid (Lk 6:35).

Conclusion - The money you have is NOT yours, it is _____. Be w_____ with His money in giving and lending to individuals.