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James W. Moss, Sr.
Church Consultant

People Spot Missile: The Mystery of Giving

As a young man, I felt I couldn't afford to tithe. As a mature man, I feel that I can't afford not to tithe. Somehow it seems that the only stuff that we will keep will be what we give away. I've been around for a while. I have both conducted and attended many funerals. I have yet to see a hearse with a u-haul trailer on the back.

³⁷ *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.* ³⁹ *And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*⁴⁰ *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."* Matthew 22

Our God is a jealous God. He demands that we have no other gods before him. You may say, "What are you talking about? I'm not a pagan. I don't have any idols in my house." Are you sure? What is first in your life? How can you tell? Check out your calendar and your checkbook. How do you spend your time and your money? There is a third test. What do you talk about the most? We always talk about what is important to us. Remember our God demands to be first in our lives.

What does God want you to do? Remember the four letters the teens used to display? *WWJD*. What would Jesus do? Remember the popular book from another era? *In His Steps*. The thesis of the book was that you should assess a situation and then respond as Jesus would. The Bible will guide. In addition the Holy Spirit will help us to understand what Jesus would do. When we know how Jesus would behave, then we should behave in a similar manner. That includes how we use the resources that were given to us.

Success as a Christian has nothing to do with the kind of house we live in, the kind of car we drive, the kind of clothes we wear, or the kind of smell good we use. What does it mean to be a successful Christian? It is simple. Seek to know the will of God and strive to do it. Success as a church has nothing to do with the size of the attendance or the size of the facility. What does it mean to be a successful Church? It is simple. Seek to know the will of God and strive to do it.

God has ordained a giving spirit. He gave us an example by Giving his Son. Jesus gave us an example by giving His life. Paul cites the words of Jesus in 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.**' ”

Tabitha or Dorcas which was her name in Greek cared for people. She ministered to their needs. When she died prematurely, the widows showed Peter all she had done for them. A miracle happened and Tabitha continued to do good deeds in the name of Jesus.

Let me tell you about a modern day Tabitha. Her name was Miss Elizabeth. She was a saint of God. She cared for children. She ministered to families in need. She gave liberally of her resources to those in need. She didn't tithe. She gave as much as 50% of her income to the church and to those in need. There are many who will rise up and call her blessed. Thank you Miss Elizabeth for the help you gave to many people including me.

A Thought: It feels so good to sense a direction from the Holy Spirit and then give as he directs. Sometimes people know and at other times the giving is done in secret. It makes no difference. The blessings are still the same. Jim Moss, Sr.

I am now available to present “Starting a New Service”, “Churches Have Personalities”, “People Spots”, “Does Your Church Really Care About People?” and “A Christian Perspective on Leadership Skills.” “Stewardship and Managing Debt” jm Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 4—“A History of the Civil War as Presented by the Church Advocate!” are now available. It is a history without the varnish of revision.

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