

Be Liberal (Part 3)

Text: Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Introduction:

1. This book is actually Moses farewell sermons. Moses will not be going into the Promised Land. Joshua will be the chosen leader to lead the people of God into the Promised Land. This is the 11th month of the 40th year and before he dies, he is preparing the next generation to be ready to go in and possess the land.
2. As we progressed in this series we would be dealing most on the application side of the sermon.
3. We know that the Word of God is powerful. But I have already mentioned to you that there are 2 things that are more powerful in effect than the word of God that is working in the lives of many people. You will find this very real among the secular and the religious circles. It is called unbelief and tradition.
4. Now I will give you what happens when we a person have a an evil heart of unbelief or sticks to his selfish way of doing things in life, it hardens his heart.
 - A selfish heart can become a soft heart and A selfish heart can become a hardened heart
 - A hardened heart begins when the Holy Spirit speaks and you do not listen.
 - Your heart hardens when you think you have a better idea than God.
 - Since you think you have a better idea, you will continue to err in many ways.
 - Erring always will make you an evil heart.
 - An evil heart will depart from God.
 - You will never partake what God has for you.
5. **Be Liberal vs. 22**

1. **Tithing is the starting point of Liberality.**

De 14:22 ¶ Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

- A. Tithing shows that God is first in our finances.
- B. God has a special promise to tithers.
- C. Liberality begins when we tithe all the increase and God will open the windows of heaven and you will start to operate in this faith based operating system.

If I make 1,000 pesos a week, I will honor and respect God and bring to LBC 100 pesos. God will open the windows of heaven.

II. Terminate Debts Towards Liberality

- A. Law of Release (Drop Off)
- B. Liberty from Release (Free from Debt)
- C. Learn to Release (Invest in God's Kingdom)

Unless all debts will be reduced to 0 or unless it is reduced to a manageable level, a Christian will not be financially free to be liberal in giving to the work of God.

Here we have a section kind of like the laws of kindness in the Old Testament. He talks about being liberal to people who have needs.

III. Treat People with Your Liberality vs. 7-11

A. The Ideal Community

vs. 4 "There shall be no poor among you." He said that there should be no poor. In the book of **Acts 2:44-45; 4:31-33**. This is an ideal situation. You know what, we can do this? Now we cannot do this daily, but we can do this in some occasion. When we have a fellowship or gathering, all of us can have food in common. It was during this time that those who have less and those who more can share the same common food on the table. Share common ride on a jeep or a car. Share a common room when we have retreats or camps or picnics or whatever. These are times we need to share. We do this when we have a conference. All of us share together the same food on the

table. That is the ideal. The Ideal community is something that only God could possibly do. In heaven, and in the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ it will be a perfect community. But then in

B. The Real Community

vs. 7, "If there be among you a poor man." Also in ***vs. 11 "For the poor shall never cease out of the land."*** He said that there should be no poor (that is the ideal community but then it says, ***"If there be poor."***

Is that contradictory? No. He's talking about real community we really live with. In other words, God's ideal is that there be no poor. What he's basically saying is that the one who has to solve the problem of the poor is God, an application of the principles of God to human life.

Government is not the solution to the poor. In fact, Jesus said in ***Matthew 26:11, "For ye have the poor always with you."*** The ideal is that there be no poor, but the reality of the matter is that there is poverty. We need to have a heart of compassion and love for those who are less fortunate. We have to have a heart for those who are poor in our community. This is the real life issue in this church we need to understand and may the Lord create in us a kindred spirit that we must be ready to communicate with members who have legitimate needs.

In our text we read five kinds of people we need to show kindness.

- a) Brotherly**
- b) Poverty**
- c) Needy**
- d) Community**
- e) Country**

The meaning of the word poor (dictionary)

- Destitute of property; lacking in material things or goods; needy; indigent.
- Wanting in food, lodging and clothes.
- Without favorable results (medical check up, tests, application for job)
- Wanting of strength, discouraged
- Inferior in beauty,, talent, skills
- Victims of crimes
- Short of money (low salary, inadequate income)
- A below average person (education level)
- Inexperienced.

Illustration: Is there anybody who does not a need. Rich and poor people alike have needs. Educated and uneducated alike have needs. Healthy and unhealthy alike have needs. Good looking and not so the good looking have needs.

You know what we have these kinds of people in this church. Each of us have needs. God has given you something that will help a brother, a needy and a poor. Every church member must be willing to communicate especially to them who are in the household of faith.

C. The Liberal Community.

The reason why I have mentioned to you the introduction how a selfish heart turns to a harden your heart, so that you will be able to see how God helps us to develop a kind, liberal heart.

He gives a series of admonitions in verses 7 and following. He says in the latter part of **verse 7**, ***"Thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother; But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him..... "Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart. "Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him."***

Look at the series of admonitions on how a selfish heart becomes soft and kind hearted.

- When you have an opportunity to show kindness to a brother, poor or needy, "Don't harden your heart." When you start doing this, the micro fiber of your selfish heart becomes softer.
- The first external indication of a kind hearted man or woman is his or her hand opens wide unto a needy person.
- Then you must fight selfishness by thinking right thoughts. Don't have wicked thought. Do you think you have a better idea than God? Every time there is an opportunity to give and you have it with you give. Some people develop a wicked thought. "They are not going to spend that money wisely. Or They just want our money? When God's people care and share to the needy, they think about the best. If you feel there are whom you help just wasted what you have extended to them. Leave it to God.
- Then you know that your selfish heart did not turned into a hardened heart because your heart is not grieved when you gave. This indicates that your heart developed to be a cheerful heart. ***The Lord loveth a cheerful giver.*** There is so much I would like to say there. You know what a cheer is? But when God sees a cheerful heart, God in heaven said: I love that person down there at LBC who gives all the time with joy in his heart and gladness in his face.

Closing: Occasionally you see people who gripe and grumble and fuss and grieved about giving. Just mark it down. When you hear somebody like that, they are not a tither, and if they are not a tither then most likely there is no kindness to needy people I guarantee you that. You don't find the tithers and kind people walking around complaining and griping. The tithers have learned the blessing of obedience and givers learned to be merciful to people who have needs.

How much of your money works for God? How much money works for you and your family? How much money work for other people?

Spiritually, the ideal here is that there should not be a person here this morning that is poor. Because if Jesus Christ is your Savior, you will never be poor.

2 Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Salvation in Jesus Christ, is indeed the foundational truth of all these.