

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #189

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

## Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship

### The Joy of Giving

Luke 12.31-34; Acts 20.35B

<sup>31</sup> *"I command you to constantly pursue God's control over your life, and then these other things will be given to you as well. <sup>32</sup> I command you to stop being afraid, little flock, for your Father has been delighted to give you the benefits of His sovereign reign.*

*<sup>33</sup> "So I command you to do things like selling your possessions and giving the proceeds to the poor. Make yourselves into purses that will never wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>A</sup>It is a greater blessing to continually give, than it is to receive.*

<sup>34</sup> *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Speaking to a Crowd of Thousands, Somewhere in Judea
Timeline	October or November (Months 33, 34)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	3. Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship
Title	iv. Jesus Teaches About the Joy of Giving

### COMMENT:

In today's reading Jesus continued his command to agree with God about His providential care for us (LK 12.22-30). In the previous reading he explained that agreeing with God by faith meant that we are freed from obsessive worry. We take the the role of a manager of God's resources, and leave the production to him. Freedom from worry is the first result of agreeing with Jesus.

In this text Jesus shows us the second result of trusting in God's providential care for us: we become joyful givers, even as God is the Greatest Giver of all.

Notice that Jesus spoke of his Father's delight in giving us all the benefits of his sovereign control over our lives. God is love; therefore he is a giver. Jesus literally gives each of us everything that he possesses as a free gift: we become joint-heirs with him. It is as if heaven is a community-property realm (and it is!), so that when we become one with Jesus, all of his resources become equally ours. Here it how this works:

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The Father loves his Son and therefore gives him everything. Jesus loves us and therefore gives us everything he received from his Father. The Holy Spirit loves us and therefore he reveals everything about Jesus and his resources to us. Jesus described this Trinitarian giving-plan in JN 16.12-15.

Because God wants us to learn to love, even as HE is love, he providentially gives us everything we need—including enough to give away. In fact, he always gives us more than we personally need, so that we will have the joy of giving as much as we possibly can.

The world does not agree with God about His loving, giving nature. Therefore, people in the world seek to amass as much as they can and keep it to themselves for their own pleasure, and in a futile attempt to provide for their own future. The truth is that only God can provide for our future, for only HE controls everything that affects our lives. We have control over very little of what will impact our future. People in the world try to keep as much as they can for themselves. People who agree with God about HIS loving nature seek to give as much as they can away, because they know that God, the Giver, will provide for their needs.

This is a radical approach to life and resources. But it is certainly the Jesus life-style. He had to borrow a coin to use it for an illustration. He constantly gave away His Father's resources, keeping nothing for himself. He had no where to lay his head in this world, but he prepared a place for each of us in his Father's kingdom. Jesus is the perfect example of his Father's loving, giving nature.

So, a follower of Jesus is by definition a giver, who seeks God's control over their life, and therefore manages everything in their temporary possession in a way that benefits the kingdom of God and the needs of others. Jesus commanded: **"turn yourself into a purse that never stops giving..."**

### APPLICATION:

*Is your life controlled by the longing to give as much of God's resources away as you possibly can?*

Those resources include your time, all of your spiritual gifts, talents, abilities, and life-learning, and of course, money. People who agree with Jesus about God's nature as a loving giver seek to become like him as joyful givers of HIS resources.

*Does this attitude define you? How can you agree more fully with Jesus as a loving giver?*