

**Sermon Notes**  
**AN OPPORTUNE TIME:**  
**“Enter into the Joy of Your Master!”**  
**April 25, 2021**

**PRINCIPLE OF GIVING:**

It's not how much you give it's how you give. Giving should be fun, exciting, and filled with anticipation. It's not a law, it's an overflowing of His grace that brings you into *the joy of the Master*.

**SO HOW DO YOU GIVE?**

**1. Give cheerfully.**

God loves a "**Cheerful giver**." When giving to harvest for the *Lord of the Harvest*, give with cheerful heart. The one with 5 and 2 who invested and gave 100 percent return and heard, "*Well done good and faithful servant enter into the joy of the Master.*"

- **Acts 20:35 (NLT)** "And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*"
- **Matthew 10:8 (NASB95)** "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. **Freely you received, freely give.**" (They did and they came back to Jesus rejoicing...)
- **John 3:16** "God so loved the world that he **GAVE** his only son." (Consider that when you give cheerfully, you are most like the FATHER who gave His Son.)

**2. Give without fear and worry.**

Fear cost the servant with one servant everything and cast him out into the outer darkness. **Fear** is like a chain around your neck and will lead you to a path of destruction. It will restrict your life and change your mindset from his harvest to your survival. Fear throws you into **survival mode**, and you lose the sense of his Kingdom.

**Matthew 6:25–34 (NLT)** <sup>25</sup> "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? <sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"

**John 14:27 (NLT)** <sup>27</sup> "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

**Romans 8:32 (NLT)** <sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

**James 1:17 (NLT)** <sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters: Whatever is **good and perfect is a gift** coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

**Matthew 7:11 (NLT)** <sup>11</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

**3. Give generously and of your own free will.**

**2 Corinthians 8:1–15 (NLT)**

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has **overflowed in rich generosity**.

<sup>3</sup> For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their **own free will**.

<sup>4</sup> They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to **give themselves to the Lord and to us**, just as God wanted them to do.