

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.” –
Matthew 6:1





Introduction

- Offerings
- Tithes
- Firstfruits
- Almsgiving



Principles of Almsgiving

1. Everything we have is from Him

- “The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them.” (Ps. 89:11)
- “And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?” (1 Cor. 4:7)
- “...we offer unto You Your gifts from what is Yours...” (St. Basil Liturgy)



2. Almsgiving ought to be done joyfully

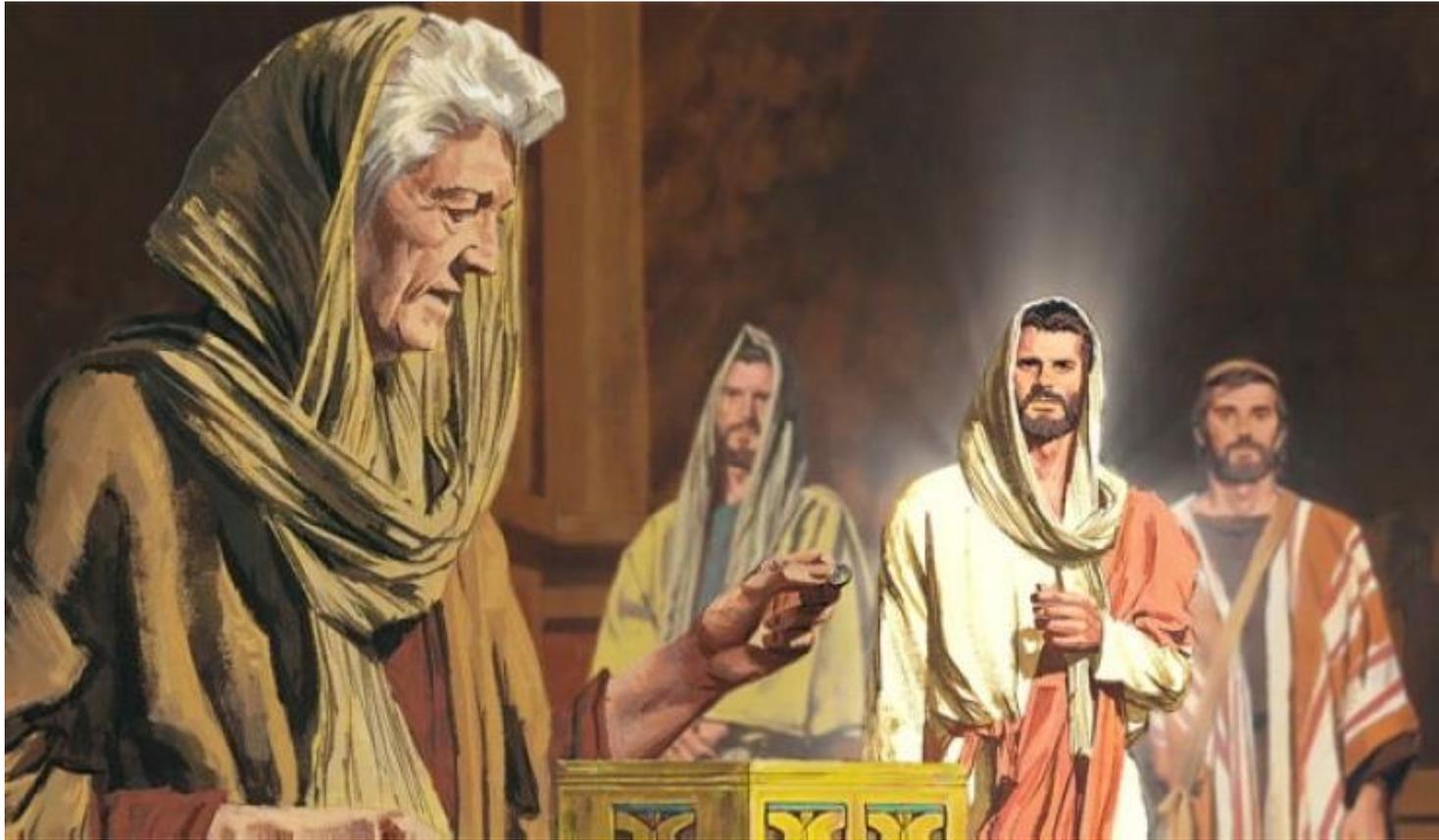
- “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:7)
- Our giving ought to be out of love, thus, joyfully





3. The reward we receive for giving is proportionate to the ease by which we give

- “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Cor. 9:6)
- “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; 4 for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.” (Lk. 21:3-4)



- The woman who gave two mites

4. Alms must be sacrificial if they are to be of any spiritual benefit

5. The one who gives to the poor or needy is the one who profits



- “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

6. A soul that seeks a reward from people will receive only that

- “Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”
(Matt. 6:2)



7. Every good thing becomes more pleasing when it is hidden by us and revealed by God

- “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.” (Matt. 6:1)
- EX: Ananias and Sapphira
- “And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet.” (Acts 5:2)



8. Every good thing becomes more pleasing when it is hidden by us and revealed by God

EX: Taking the Lowly Place

“When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Lk. 14:8-11)

Summary

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1. Everything we have is from Him
2. Almsgiving ought to be done joyfully
3. The reward we receive for giving is proportionate to the ease by which we give.
4. Alms must be sacrificial if they are to be of any spiritual benefit
5. The one who gives to the poor or needy is the one who profits
6. A soul that seeks a reward from people will receive only that
7. Every good thing becomes more pleasing when it is hidden by us and revealed by God.