

University Heights Church  
of Christ  
445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257  
www.uheightschurch.com

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday**

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is  
immediately followed by a  
short worship period)

**First Friday of Each Month**

Singing: 7:30 PM

**LEADERSHIP**

**Elders**

David Collins

John Thompson

Troy Antle

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

Richard Brundige

Matt Thompson

Adam Litmer

Bill Morelan

Jim Parsons

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

**In need of prayers**

Jim Parsons, Edith Huffman, Diane Thompson, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton (also his aunt), Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Paul Atkisson, Lois Weatherholt, Cassie Neel, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Sandra Queen, Annie Allen, Elijah Ossege, Chassey and Paisley Seabolt, Tammy Goble, Veronica Bowman, Cindi Bradbury (multiple sclerosis, recent eye surgery, and a fall that broke her arm), Jennifer Strutz, Steve Stewart (Chris's father, severe allergies causing significant and continuing health concerns)

# University Heights Messenger

Volume 10--Number 54

December 23, 2018

## The Greatest Wealth

Ron Tirey

During the holiday season, we get caught up in material things and sometimes lose sight of what is most important during this season of giving and receiving.

It takes time for us all to learn that the greatest wealth comes by not how much we get, but how much we give. When we are young, we obsess too much about what we want. We learn quickly that many people around us have lots of stuff and before long we decide we want lots of stuff also. It usually starts off small like a particular toy we see that we want. Unfortunately, we never stop wanting things. From a small toy we see as a child that our friend has, or something we have spied at the store, incessant *wanting* continues to spiral as we age into a desire for more and more. That small toy soon loses its luster and we are more than ready to move on to something else, something bigger and better.

One of parent's biggest failures is not teaching children that giving is more important than getting. If we as parents fail to teach our children the importance of giving, their attitudes can end up like the rich young ruler who came to Jesus.

Note the account contained in Matthew 19:16-22. <sup>16</sup>Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good<sup>[a]</sup> Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" <sup>17</sup>So He said to him, <sup>[b]</sup>"Why do you call Me good? <sup>[c]</sup>No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." <sup>18</sup>He said to Him,

“Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’<sup>19</sup> ‘Honor your father and *your* mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”<sup>20</sup> The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept <sup>[d]</sup>from my youth. What do I still lack?”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Unfortunately, it seems this young man had not been taught the proper attitude about wealth or the spirit of generosity to those in need. There is no evidence in scripture that he did as Jesus asked him to.

In Acts 20:35 Paul says, <sup>35</sup>“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Jesus sets the supreme example by telling us and ultimately showing us, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” The feeling that comes from giving is really indescribable. One’s own heart will experience an inner peace and joy when giving something to someone and expect nothing in return. One problem many people have is expecting something in return. We give them a gift, so now they should give us a gift back.

There is nothing wrong with exchanging gifts, however, the expression of generosity is lost somewhat when we receive something in return. Giving to someone in need is expected of us as Christians. The real joy of giving is when we give a gift to someone who cannot repay us, nor should we expect to be repaid. This is how we become a blessing to them. The spirit of giving needs to be instilled in us at a very young age. This new spirit only comes from a learning process. This spirit of giving reveals itself to us in its purest form that resonates straight from

our heart. This new spirit is the desire to give to others. As adults we should now find great joy in making happiness for those in need. This new inner spirit and glowing of our hearts is a feeling unlike any other. It radiates itself so brightly, and transforms its super spiritual qualities into those of physical blessings and sheer delight in simply helping others.

Psalm 37:21 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> The wicked borrow and do not repay,  
but the righteous give generously;

Proverbs 21:26 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> All day long he craves for more,  
but the righteous give without sparing.

John 3:16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

No other emotion or feeling is of a higher order for us here on earth than our own personal self-sacrifice. By sacrificing our time, money, or a particular, giving it away freely with absolutely no strings attached and without any hesitation or regret. Then we can simply watch the wonderful exchange that occurs from our heart to theirs, and that treasure will reward us many times over. It will generate a feeling of pleasure that no present we buy for ourselves can match. Nothing can compare, or even come close, to what happens when one heart touches another, creating a bond of love. That is the true spirit of giving and is indeed the greatest wealth we can ever attain on this earth.





