

A GIVING HEART

(Luke 7:37-38)

- I. **She realized she had something to give.**
 - a. We don't know anything about this woman other than the fact that she was a sinner.
 - i. It could be that she was able to purchase this ointment through proceeds from her sinful life.
 - ii. It may be that she was aware of her sins and that Jesus had forgiven others and she sought the same thing.
 - b. Whatever the case may be, we do know that at some point she realized that she possessed this ointment and was willing to give that to the Lord.
 - c. Each of us have something or some things to give.
 - d. Are we willing to give those to the Lord?
 - e. Our time.
 - i. You can earn more money but you can't earn more time.
 - ii. How much of our time are we giving to God?
 - iii. For many Christians, the giving of about four hours a week is really difficult.
 - iv. For others, it is a badge of honor that they gave those four hours and punched the clock for God.
 - v. There are others, though much rarer, who realize that God deserves more of our precious time than just four hours a week.
 - f. The skills that God has given us.
 - i. Are we using those skills in the service of God in any way?
 - ii. Some have skill with creating visual aids for classes, creativity with bulletin boards, or things like this.
 - iii. Some have the ability to do work with their hands for which they could charge good money but are willing to do that work for the church for free.
 - iv. Some have the ability to talk to others about anything.
 - v. Are we using that skill to talk to others about God?
 - g. God has granted us the ability to earn money in various ways.
 - i. We need to realize that what we've been given by God, no matter the amount is something that could be given away.
 - ii. Out of what we earn, we have something to give.
 - iii. It may not be as much as the person sitting next to us, but we must realize that the amount is not important.
 - h. The Macedonians were a poor people, but they had learned early in their Christian lives the key to giving (2 Corinthians 8:5) – they needed to first give themselves, and that is what they did

- i. God has given us many things and we need to realize that whatever we have can be used to God's glory.
- II. She realized that what she had was valuable.**
- a. I imagine this woman was like a lot of us: she knew how much her possessions were worth.
 - i. Again, we don't know how she came to possess this valuable ointment.
 - ii. But I guarantee you she knew how valuable it was.
 - b. If we possess something, we have a pretty good idea how much it is worth.
 - i. My wife tells people all the time that I'd sell her and the kids if the price was right.
 - ii. Everything has a price and we generally have a pretty good idea of how much that price is for the things we possess.
 - c. Surely, we all realize how valuable our time is.
 - i. It is a diminishing asset isn't it?
 - ii. Yet, how many of us really redeem the time as Paul commanded us to do (Ephesians 5:16)?
 - iii. Many of us are selfish with our time, wanting to use the precious time we've been given only for ourselves.
 - iv. When we act that way, it shows that we haven't learned what the Macedonians has learned.
 - d. Most people understand how valuable their skills are and charge the right amount for it.
 - i. We take jobs or charge amounts for our work that show we understand this.
 - ii. We don't want to give away our skill for little or nothing and we shouldn't.
 - iii. But what about using that valuable skill for the Lord and His church?
 - iv. Some only want to use their skills when it is beneficial to them financially.
 - v. If we possess some skill that is useful in the kingdom, we need to realize that skill is to be used to God's glory in whatever meaningful way possible.
 - e. It is easy to place a value on money isn't it?
 - i. We know how valuable each bill or coin is.
 - ii. We also know what each bill or coin can do for our particular situation.
 - iii. This is what makes it so hard to give up.
 - iv. I'll be honest and say that from time to time I've looked around and seen what people who don't go to church have and think, "I could have a lot of things if I didn't contribute what I do on Sundays".
 - v. We know our money is valuable and what can be done with it by us if we have it in our possession.

vi. We should realize that each amount is valuable and that how we do use it has an effect on our soul's final abode.

f. What we possess is valuable and we generally have a pretty good understand of just how valuable it is.

III. She realized to whom she was giving the valuable gift.

a. The woman went straight to our Lord and gave him the gift of her tears, effort, and ointment.

i. She didn't look around and just decide to give it to Jesus.

ii. She came into the house with that intent and followed through on it.

b. When we have a giving heart, everything we give, no matter the actual recipient, is to the Lord.

c. Do you remember the words of Jesus (Matthew 25:34-40)?

i. You did it unto me.

ii. Everything we give is given to the Lord and everything we selfishly keep is kept from the Lord.

d. This woman realized that the One to whom she was giving the ointment was far more valuable than the ointment itself.

e. The check or the cash you put into the offering plate, who or what was it for?

i. I've heard some that said, "I'm going to withhold my contribution because I don't like the way the elders spend the money".

ii. You and I don't give to the elders.

iii. We don't give to a missionary or a preacher.

iv. We don't give to a building fund or to a particular work.

v. We give to the Lord.

f. When we give our time for the cause of Christ, we are giving our time to the Lord.

g. When we give our talents for the cause of Christ, we are giving our talents to the Lord.

h. Everything we do is for and to the Lord (Colossians 3:23).

IV. Jesus knew the gift was from her heart.

a. Later in the text, Jesus describes in detail what the woman had done for Him.

i. He knew how badly she wanted to do this for Him.

ii. He knew that she was genuine in everything that she did.

b. The one who hosted the gathering at which this took place knew about this woman because he thought to himself that if Jesus had known who she was and what she was that He would not have let her do this.

i. More than likely, this woman knew the man, and probably others there, knew what type person she was.

ii. This did not stop her from doing what she did.

c. She gave the best she had because she had come to realize that Jesus was worth that to her.

- d.** In turn, Jesus gave her what she needed the most: the forgiveness of her sins.
- e.** This would not have been the case if the gift had not been given from the heart.
- f.** When we give, and don't limit this passage to money, though that is the context, it must be given from the heart (2Corinthians 9:7).
 - i.** If we give, it isn't for show, it is for the Lord, whatever it is that we give.
 - ii.** We shouldn't do it for our glory, but for God's.
- g.** What you and I give to God, whether time, talent, or treasure, must be from the heart or it is not worth giving.

Outline came from an article but don't know the author's name.