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| **SERIES** | All Hands On Deck (Round 2) |
| **BIBLE** | Philippians 4: 14-20 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | Giving Hands |
| **OVERVIEW** | By nature, and in our sinful flesh, we humans are self-centered and me-first in our thinking. The world teaches an outlook of personal scarcity; there isn’t enough to go around, so I must pursue my own needs and wants as the first and supreme priority. Even as Christians, we are not always sensitive to the needs of others, not attentive to how God may want to use us to bless others in their time of need, and we miss out on the blessings of living with Giving Hands. Today we’ll learn from Philippians 4 that to have generous and Giving Hands requires a God – centered and others-first mentality, and brings the blessing of God upon our lives. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **14**Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.  **Giving Hands start with the right attitude: To be concerned and share in the troubles of others (not consumed with yourself!) (14**)  Followers of Jesus are called to love God with our all and love our neighbor as ourself (Matt 22:34-40), to love one another in the Body of Christ as Jesus has loved us first (John 13:34-35), and to bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).  Earlier in this letter, Paul commanded believers to focus on others as more important that ourselves.  Philippians 2: **3**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,**4**not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.  \*\*How is your attitude concerning the needs of others and the work of advancing the gospel? Do you have a soft heart when you hear of opportunities to give? OR are you consumed with yourself, and is giving at the very bottom of your list of “optional good deeds”?  Philippians 4: **15**Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; **16**for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. …**18**I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent.  **Giving Hands take the right action: Giving financially to those in need, investing financially in gospel/Kingdom work. (15-16,18)**  The Philippians sent Epaphroditus to deliver the money they collected to support Paul. Paul thanks them for their faithfulness to him since the beginning of their friendship in Christ. The gifts they gave were more than enough to meet his needs! These believers (from the region of Macedonia) had a reputation for being generous to God’s work, even though they were not a wealthy congregation.  II Corinthians 8: 1And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. **2**In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. **3**For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, **4**they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.   * During a trial they gave. In extreme poverty they gave. They had overflowing joy in that trial and it welled up with rich generosity. They gave what they were able… and beyond their ability – they gave sacrificially. They saw giving to God’s work as a privilege, so they pleaded with Paul to give to this collection for the believers in Jerusalem.     \*\*Are you taking action to give to God? To the needs of God’s people? To the advancement of His Church? To the expansion of His Kingdom? Biblical teaching for giving:   * Firstfruits (from the top, from our gross income) given back to God * Tithe (10%) of your income to your worshiping community, the place you are devoted to growing in Christ, being equipped, worshipping. (your local church!) * Offerings - special and one-time projects to meet needs and advance the Kingdom of God \*Talk about how to give, give online, set up auto, etc…   **Giving Hands are a pleasing offering to God that bring the rewards, promises and glory of God into our lives. (17-20)**  **17**Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.  Reward – When we give, more is credited or our heavenly account (17).  All believers in Jesus will one day be rewarded for their obedience, good works, acts of love… everything we have every give - every single dollar - will be credited to our account in heaven.  II Corinthians 5: **9**So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. **10**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.  By God’s grace, when we hear “Well done, good and faithful servant”, we will hear – well done in giving (total dollar amount) invested in people for the advancement of the gospel and meeting needs in Jesus name.  \*\* What will be credited to your account in heaven? It is biblical to desire heavenly rewards. May this future blessing motivate us to give today!!  **18**I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God….**20**To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.  Glory – When we give, we worship and glorify God (18, 20)  Our giving is like the OT offerings of lambs. God sees a pure heart and actions of obedience as He is pleased. Giving is a fragrant, pleasing, acceptable act of worship.  \*\*How is your financial worship? Are you free, joyful, fully expressive through giving? When we refused to give, we are refusing to worship.  **19**And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.  Promise – As we give to meet the needs of Kingdom work, God promises to meet our needs.  God meets our needs based on His riches, not based on the amount we are lacking. This means God is able to fill and exceed any deficit we may face through any trial we may experience. God’s riches are the ocean that can fill our “cup” of need. Trust Him as you give!  Giving requires trusting God. We release His resources back into His work. We trust that He will supply as we give to supply others.  Matthew 6: **33**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.  \*\*Are you trusting God to meet your needs as you give? OR are you holding back what you would like to give so you can provide your needs?  Conclusion – Giving Hands glorify God!  **20**To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.   * When we are God-centered and sensitive to the needs of people and God’s Kingdom, we bring glory to God. * When we take action to give from a pure and grateful heart we bring glory to God! * When we give to bless others, trusting God to provide for us, we are rewarded and bring glory to God! |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  God gives to us out of the abundance of His grace, His riches in glory.  Humans need saving. Humans need forgiveness. Humans need to be made spiritually alive. Humans need to be reconciled to God.  Our need is so great, we can never fill it in our own strength.  But God, in sending Christ, will supply all our needs according to His riches of grace. See how generous is our God! See how Jesus gave Himself for us! See how we need Him. Repent of sin, trust Jesus, be filled and live for God’s glory! |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  GROW – Begin to give.  \*Use a visual of progressive giving. Give once. Give regularly. Give proportionally. Give sacrificially. Give extravagantly. |