

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LIFE OF JESUS

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PART 8: GOING THE EXTRA MILE

COMPULSORY ROMAN SERVICE

Israel was an occupied country at the time of Jesus. Roman law was superimposed on the Jewish people with severe punishment for not obeying the laws of Rome.

One such law stated that any Roman officer or soldier could force a Jew to carry a burden for one mile. Thus, if a Jew just had just left his home in the morning and met a Roman soldier who needed someone to carry some equipment or goods, the Roman could order the Jew to pick up the load and carry it for one mile. Then he was free to set it down and go back to what he was doing.

The Jews hated this law and Jesus shocked His audience when He told them to do two miles instead of one. **Matthew 5:41; 27:31-32; Mark 15:21**

Jesus wants His followers to be open to helping out in any circumstance as far as we have the capacity to do it. "Going the extra mile" is something that every Christian should consider since it is a great testimony to unbelievers and shows them we are taking our Christian life seriously.

James, the half-brother of Jesus, made it clear that Jesus' teaching is something every Christian should embrace and practice. **James 2:14-18**

BEING A GIVER

In the laws given to Moses, Jesus stated that if there was a poor person among the people, the Israelites were not to let him suffer, but to embrace and help him out. **Deuteronomy 15:7-18**

Jesus reinforced this law when He stated we are to give to those who are in need and seeking help. **Matthew 5:42**

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus said that if we give, God will repay us more than we gave to the person in need. **Luke 6:38**

The apostle Paul had a habit of collecting money from church members in order to help the poor and needy. If a Christian gives bountifully, he will also reap bountifully. This is called the law of sowing and reaping and God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:1-13**

When we help out people in need, we are in reality loaning money to the Lord. **Proverbs 19:17**

At the same time a Christian is a steward for the Lord. We truly don't own anything as even our bodies are on loan and must be returned at the end of our time on earth. All talents, skills and intelligence have been created by God to be used for good on this earth. A Christian should therefore be a good steward of what he has been given as everything will be left behind at death.



There are people who are professional beggars as well as those who are homeless due to their drug and alcohol addiction. Some were compulsive gamblers and lost it all. Before a Christian gives money to a poor person, he should do a quick check to find out why the person is poor. Some people have mental problems, others were sick and lost their jobs and had no place to go except the streets.

I have found that some people are lazy and do not want to work. As a rule, I am careful when helping a stranger seeking help. As a pastor, I and the church have been duped several times by people that preyed upon our goodness. Our church took in a homeless family and allowed them to live on the church premises. We gave them food and some cash. We learned afterwards that the couple was not married and the man was a drug dealer who used our facility to conduct his criminal activities because he presumed the police would never come to a church and arrest him for selling drugs. **Matthew 10:16**

People working at rescue missions know how to handle people who are coming for help. Experience has taught them to reject the professional beggar who has no intention of coming to Christ, but is just after money so they can maintain their addiction.

There are some Christians who have been given the gift of giving. **Romans 12:6-8**

Poor people cannot give what they do not have. We find that God has gifted men and women with talents to build businesses that generate large amounts of money. God is not doing this so that they can get richer, but to be good stewards of what God has entrusted them and be used of the Lord to support mission work, churches, orphanages and individuals. **Deuteronomy 8:18**

Some churches and Christian organizations squander the donations they receive. A giver is held responsible by the Lord to whom he donates. People contributing money to wealthy television evangelists and mega church pastors will incur a curse for such ignorant giving. This type of giving will bring a curse. **Matthew 7:6**

The same holds true for tithing. Not all churches and Christian organizations are sanctioned by the Lord to receive the tithes of Christians. **Malachi 3:6-12; Ezekiel 34:1-10**

The disciples thought it was wasteful when Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anointed Jesus with a precious ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. **John 11:1-2**

Jesus responded that unlike the poor, He would not always be with them. **Matthew 26:6-13**

It is impossible to send money to heaven but we can and should give Jesus our praise and worship all the time because He is worthy to be praised. **Psalms 150:1-6**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?