



Sermon Notes

“First Things First”

Matthew 6:31-34

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1. Perceptions we have toward giving. ...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35)

- Compulsory –something is being taken from me. (II Corinthians 9:7)
- Responsibility –giving is my obligation. (Malachi 3:9-10)
- Faith – expecting something in return. (II Corinthians 9:10)

2. Giving has different benefits to our lives. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. (II Corinthians 9:12) NLT

- First Fruits are gifts of honor connected to increase! (Proverbs 3:9-10)
- Tithes are gifts of obedience connected to positioning and protection. (Malachi 3:10-12)
- Offerings are gifts of generosity connected to abundant blessings. (II Corinthians 9:11)

3. First Fruits cause God to own your harvest. The first of all the first fruits of every kind and every contribution of every kind....you shall also give to the priest the first of your dough to cause a blessing to rest on your house. (Ezekiel 44:30) (Romans 11:16)

- God's blessing stays on your lineage. (Ezekiel 44:30c)
- God stands guard to fend off predators. (Jeremiah 2:2-3)

4. Practicing First Fruits is another opportunity to exercise faith and receive greater blessing. (II Corinthians 8:12)