

**ACCM**

**Bible Study:** Thursday, October 19th, 2017. **Topic: GIVING Part 4**

**INTRODUCTION:** As we ended the study two weeks ago, we said that the major part of our next study will be a discussing on the importance of motive behind giving. Therefore today, we are going to do a bit of a deeper review of the life of Simon the sorcerer as we discuss the motive behind giving. May the Lord grant us the required wisdom, knowledge and humility required to study and digest today’s study in Jesus Name. Amen

**TEXT**: Acts 8:4-23, Mark 12:41-44

Compare and contrast Simon with some brethren in church today.

1. He was seen as a great man before his encounter with salvation just like there are some personalities who were famous before they encountered God.
2. He began to follow Phillip and was dazzled by the signs and great miracles performed by Phillip. - Looks like some influential people in church today.
3. He needed power for his selfish interest so he offered money. How many of our so called wealthy people today have offered to chair the church building committee so they will be recognized and perhaps offered titles in the church. I have heard of a certain well-known denomination where tithe cards are checked thoroughly before ordination. And that you will not be ordained if your offering/tithe is considered inadequate.
4. The words of Peter to Simon were very strong words. How many pastors in our days can answer people in this manner? On the contrary how do men of God treat people who offer them money today even when they know that the money is to buy their hearts.
5. What was unique about the widow that Jesus recognized her giving? Luke 21:4, II Sam 24:24 (Generous giving)

**Other impure types of giving:**

Giving without a loving heart: I Cor 13:3

Giving so men could praise you: Matt 6:1-3

Giving only to those in your class of friends who may only be able to relate with you or those who may be able to give you in return. Luke 6:34-35

**Other wrong modes of giving:**

Giving grudgingly: II Cor 9:7, Deut 15:10a, Exodus 25:2, 35:5,21, I Chron 29:9, Ezra 2:6-8, 3:5, Heb 10:34.

CONCLUSION: The church has imported the world into it as we have designed all forms of extortion tactics and we call them giving. These are not true giving but ‘extortion’ as I have called it and unfortunately such giving has little or no reward attached to them. When you give to a church or a man of God because you want to be ordained or because you want the people to praise you, the bible says you have already received your reward. Truly there are people who will not give to the work of God unless there are worldly rewards or perks attached to them. Instead of the pastors to behave like Peter, and let them go with their gifts, they are sucked into accepting gifts from such people. Many pastors have received personal gifts that will make them lose God’s blessings or sadly at times open up themselves to the devil. For instance, pastors should be careful about some of those birthday gifts of cars and houses. Perhaps such gifts should never have been accepted. It would have profited us more as ministers to reject these gifts rather than accept them and stay in bondage to the giver. I think this will be a good place to stop for today: at some point we will study what happens when we refuse to give.