

No Strings Attached - Week 4

Introduction

A gift that comes with expectations and obligations is really no gift at all. A true gift has "no strings attached" to it. Giving something with no strings attached to it can be a bit tricky but Jesus teaches us a principle that helps us understand how we can give in a way that insures the gift is truly just that; a gift.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever been given a gift and the person who gave it to you used it as an opportunity to hold it over your head? What did they give and how did they hold it over your head?
- 2. Have you ever given a gift to someone in hopes that you would get something in return? Did you get what you hoped for? How did it end up working out?
- 3. Read <u>Matthew 6:1-4</u>. How did Jesus say we should give? What did He say God the Father would do if we give this way?
- 4. In the message Jon said: "The secret to proper giving is to keep your giving a secret from yourself". When you hear this, what are some things you could do to help protect yourself from becoming consumed with the personal benefits when giving a gift? What are some ways to insure your gift is one that has "no strings attached"?

Moving Forward

When we give we should check to see if there is a voice inside of us that is being let in on the secret... are we beginning to tally up the gift and weigh it against hopeful favors or affirmation in the future?

Is there a voice inside that is saying:

- I hope they realize what I am giving them here.
- I hope they accept me now and make me an insider
- I hope this gift gets me what I want from them
- I hope that they come my way now that I have given them this
- I hope people recognize how good of a person I am

Jesus wants us to know that when we give we should do so without having any strings attached to our giving. We can do this by making this commitment and declaration each and every time we give: When I give, I will not inform myself of what the gift could do for me.

Changing Your Mind - Commit this to memory

Matthew 6:3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. (TNIV)