

## **Bless Him Who Blessed You**

*“Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.” (Luke 8:1-3)*

1. These people ministered to Jesus because He ministered to them.
2. These women represented one extreme to the other in society:
  - a. Mary Magdalene was single. Had a sorted paste and was not well off.
  - b. Joanna was wealthy – a woman of great reputation.
    1. She was married to the steward of the Roman ruler of Jerusalem, Herod Antipas, who had the head of John the Baptist cut off.
    2. She was present with the other women at the resurrection (Luke 24:10).
  - c. Susanna is only mentioned here.
  - d. “Many others” are unnamed women who followed and gave.
  - e. Only Mary Magdalen’s story is given. We do not know others.
3. You minister to the Lord because He ministered to you first.
4. Jesus went from city to city with a team. This costs money.
  - a. The women have been set free, forgiven, healed, and delivered from devils.
  - b. The women followed Him from city to city.
  - c. Jesus enjoys those sustaining Him whom He has blessed.
  - d. They did not give once, but always as they traveled with Him.
  - e. They did not take from grocery money, clothing budget, or church tithes. This was more of a love offering to the Lord.
5. Your giving should be motivated by love for Jesus for forgiving, healing, and delivering you from so much.
  - a. Marriage
  - b. Cheating in business
  - c. Adultery
  - d. Theft
  - e. Mental illness
  - f. Bankruptcy
  - g. Jail
  - h. Cancer
  - i. Drugs

- j. Alcohol
- k. Homosexuality
- l. Prostitution
- m. Gangs
- n. Crime

*“If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more?”*

*Nevertheless, we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 9:11-12)

1. Without provocation, the women gave into the ministry of Jesus.
2. Paul said the same thing from the minister’s viewpoint. It is acceptable to ask people to give back into the ministry and minister of God.
3. If you give money to the electric company, water, and gas company, and department stores (which are worldly and have corruption), does not the ministry have more of a right to ask for your money?
4. They have brought you eternal life, healing, deliverance, and peace.
5. Paul was good ground. He told us of his integrity – never a scandal (vs. 12).

### **Two Things About Giving**

1. Giving blesses God Who has blessed you – salvation, the Holy Spirit, healing, and deliverance from Satan.
2. Highest use of money – to advance God’s kingdom in the world (1 Corinthians 13:3).
  - a. The highest motive in giving is love toward God and people.
3. Be faithful to tithe to a church which ministers to you.
4. Be faithful to minister financially to ministers who bless you.