

GIVING FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Small Group Participant's Guide – Lesson Four



BEFORE THE LESSON:

- Pray for God to open your heart to the truth revealed in His Word and for other group members
- Read chapters 7-8 in the book, *Plastic Donuts*, and complete the following questions.
- Please note that your answers do not have to be lengthy, but feel free to elaborate in areas that are most meaningful to you. Also, be prepared to share about how this material is impacting your perspective on giving.

? DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 7: THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Look up and read Acts 5:1-10

- Were they required to give all the money they received for the land?
- What was the problem with the gift Ananias and Sapphira gave that cost them their lives?

Look up Matthew 5:23-24

- Why do you suppose Jesus didn't tell him to go ahead and offer his gift then go make things right with his brother?
- What other areas of our lives might God be interested in being right with Him to make our gifts acceptable to Him?

Look up and read Proverbs 21:3

- What does God really desire more than our offerings?



? DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 7: THE HEART OF THE MATTER (continued)

Look up and read Matthew 23:23

- Were these people giving?
- What did Jesus say they were neglecting?
- Did Jesus excuse them from giving if they corrected their lives?

So is it a right heart or right amount that matters most to God?

We cannot speak about the heart without thinking in some part about motives. What are some motives people have for giving to the Lord? As you think of some, consider are they good or bad?

Look up and Read 2 Corinthians 9:6

- What does this say happens when you give generously?
- Is that a negative motive for giving?
- What are your thoughts about the “give to get” story of Papa?

What do we do if our heart is not in the right place to give an acceptable gift?

- Do we just not give?
- What do these verses say about getting our hearts right? 1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13



? DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 7: THE HEART OF THE MATTER (continued)

Consider David – He had sinned against the Lord. In Psalm 51 he prayed for God to cleanse his heart and life. (vv 1-4, 10) But also notice what was then possible because his heart had been cleansed.

- According to verse 13 what was possible after cleansing?
- According to verse 14 what was possible after cleansing?
- According to verse 19 what was possible after cleansing?

Can you see your giving in light of your relationship with God rather than that of “Christian duty”?

What one truth will you take away from this 4 week study that has most impacted you? How will you apply it to your life?
