*Tuesday, January 13, 2015*

**Then and Now**

Acts 8:18-20 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, (19) Saying, Give me also this power that on whomsoever I lay hands; he may receive the Holy Ghost. (20) But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. (KJV)

Back in the time of Peter and the disciples the men of God didn’t play favorites with people just because they had a lot of money, rather they rebuked them instead. Today we see many who claim just the opposite, making it appear that the more they give to God the more they get.

James 2:1-5 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. (2) For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; (3) And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: (4) Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? (5) Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? (KJV)

Again, back then we see that the people didn’t play favorites; rather they were looking more to the inward and not the outward. Today many have decided to give more perks and attention to those that give the most outwardly; however, they miss those that give the most from the heart, inwardly.

Mark 12:41-44 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. (42) And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. (43) And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: (44) For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living. (KJV)

You know, our Lord did happen to preach a message concerning giving back then; however, it is much different than the ones we hear about today isn’t it? How about this nonsense we see on the 700 Club (a religious organization) with their endless telethons; and how they focus on who gives the most rather than those that do it from the heart. Oh and by the way, which chapter and verse did our Lord teach us about doing telethons?

1 Timothy 6:9-11 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. (10) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (11) But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. (KJV)

So today let’s concentrate more on what our Lord did and said as our examples, and flee from the wannabe’s and pretenders. God bless and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.