

Truth or Chains



The Lord Loves A Cheerful Lender?

When I hear a Christian say that they loaned another Christian some much-needed money, it makes me cringe. I know, I know, the lending Christian had the best of intentions. They just wanted to help another brother or sister in Christ in their time of need. For that, they are to be commended, but I don't believe lending money is the way to do it. Here's why:

1. Loaning puts the borrower in bondage – to you!

"But that's not my intention!" you say. Of course not, but that doesn't change the fact. In Proverbs 22:7, we read, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." As you know, this website is dedicated to setting people free in Christ. As Christians, we do not want to put others in bondage and no matter what your intentions are, if you lend someone money, that's exactly what you are doing – putting them in bondage.

If you've ever borrowed money, well then you know exactly what I'm talking about. Even worse, if it comes time to pay the money back and you don't have it, you begin finding reasons to avoid the person you borrowed from. It's so uncomfortable! When the Lord provides, He doesn't put this burden on you.

"As Christians, we do not want to put others in bondage..."

2. If you are in need, go to the Lord.

As we said in the previous point, when the Lord provides, he does not put you in bondage. Just as in our salvation, which was a free gift from God, if you wait on the Lord for His provision, he will provide for you freely, with no burdens attached. Philippians 4:19 tells us "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Wait on the Lord. Trust in the Lord only, and he will provide. If you are not familiar with the story of George Mueller, I recommend you read his story. He committed early in his life to only go to the Lord with his needs, and the Lord provided abundantly so that he was able to provide for thousands of orphans – without ever borrowing from anyone.

3. The Lord loves a cheerful GIVER!

If the Lord prompts you to help someone out, give, don't lend. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, we read "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." You don't find anywhere in the Bible, where it says, "God loves a cheerful lender."

Jesus gave his life freely so that we could have eternal life. Doesn't it seem logical that we should have the same spirit of giving that Jesus did? If you have the Holy Spirit (if you are a Christian, you do) you do have the same spirit of giving. Remember, everything you have, is His anyway (see tithing article).

There's a wonderful story about Hudson Taylor, the great man of faith who started the China Inland Mission. As a young man, learning faith lessons in England, he was asked by a desperate man to come pray for his dying wife. Hudson agreed and followed the man to his small apartment where he found 4 or 5 children, obviously starving, and the mother and a new-born child, both of whom looked like they were dying.

Now, Hudson Taylor had in his pocket, one coin (half a crown) which was all the money he had in the world and was enough to provide for his food for the next day. As he looked upon the family's terrible situation, the Lord pressed on his heart to give his money to the family. Hudson, tried to push these things out of his mind, reasoning, that if he only had some change, he would be glad to give a portion of the money to the needy family. that would still leave a little left over for his food the next day.

Kneeling down, he began to pray for the family but the words would not come out! Hudson wrote of the Lord's conviction, "You hypocrite! telling these unconverted people about a kind and

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The Lord Loves A Cheerful Lender (cont.)

loving Father in heaven, and not prepared yourself to trust Him without a half-a-crown.” Well, Hudson Taylor gave his money and the woman and her child were saved. The next day, the Lord provided abundantly for the young Hudson, and he learned a valuable lesson: Not only did the Lord love a cheerful giver, but he could trust the Lord with a little in his pocket or nothing at all.

Conclusion. When the Lord impresses you to help someone with money, be a cheerful giver! I encourage you to read Hudson Taylor’s biography. There are several written, but my favorite is the two-volume set from OMF by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor.

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