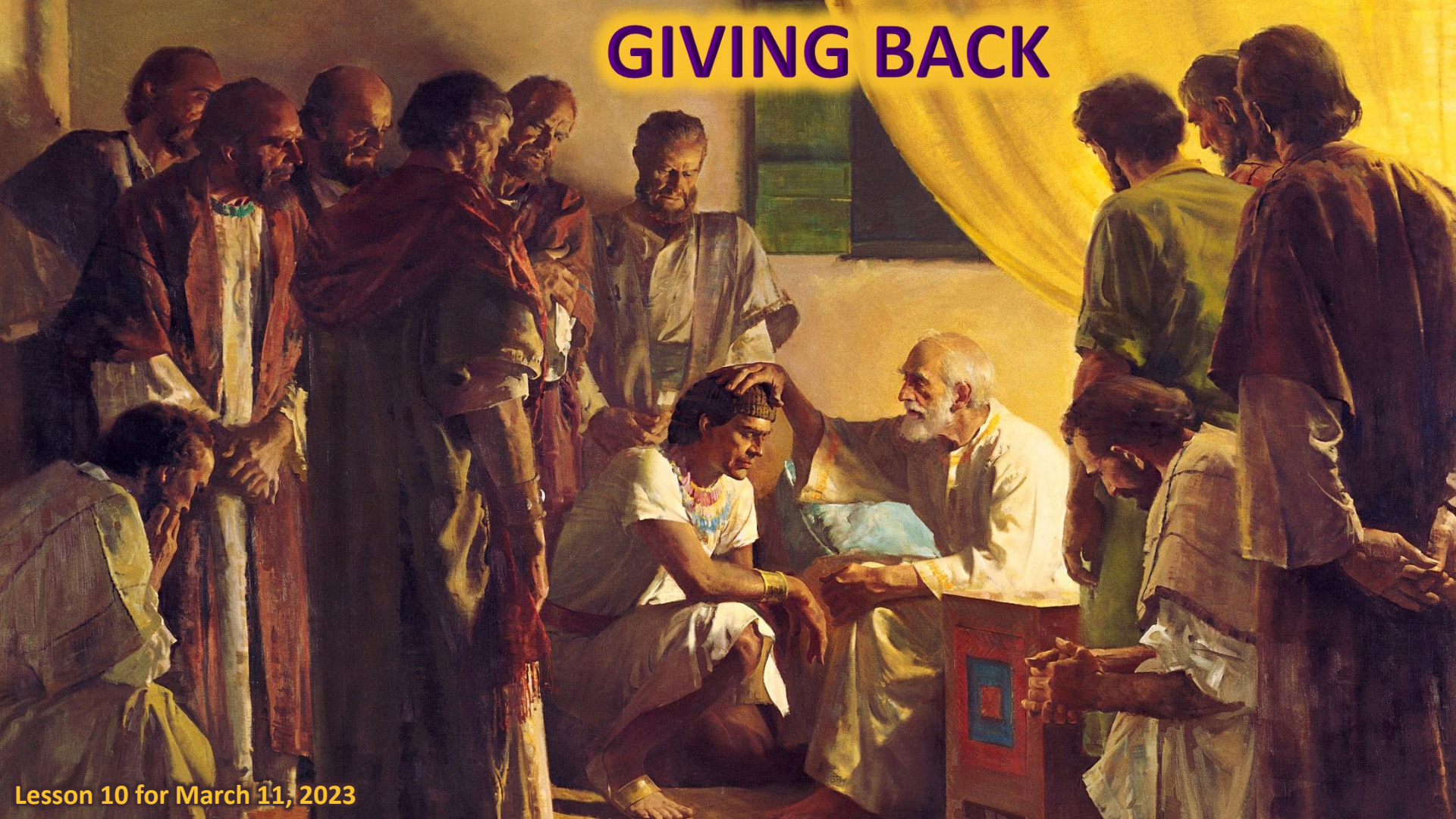


GIVING BACK



"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them"
(Revelation 14:13)

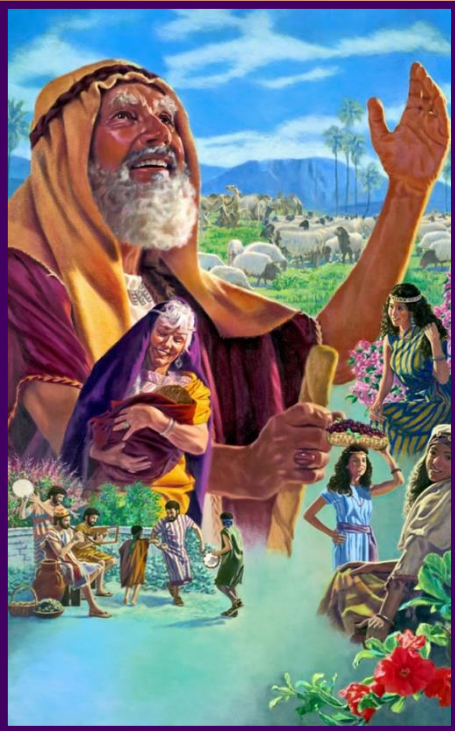


As we near the end of our earning years, we may worry about our immediate future. Ellen G. White left us this piece of advice: “They should lay aside anxiety and burdens, and occupy their time as happily as they can, and be ripening up for heaven.” (TC1, p. 424).



We usually reach this stage of life with more resources than we had when we were born. What should we do with them? As stewards, how should we give them back to its Owner?

- Giving back what is God's
- Preparing for the future
- Enjoying our blessings
- When should we give back?
 - 🔵 Delayed return
 - 🟡 Advantages of “now”

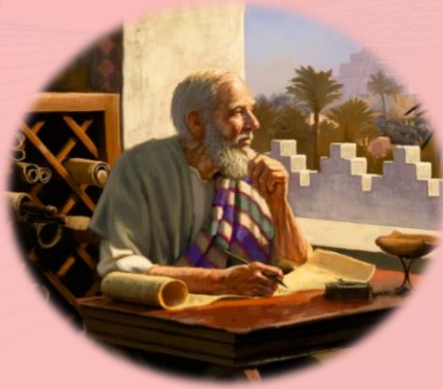


GIVING BACK WHAT IS GOD'S

"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'" (Luke 12:20)

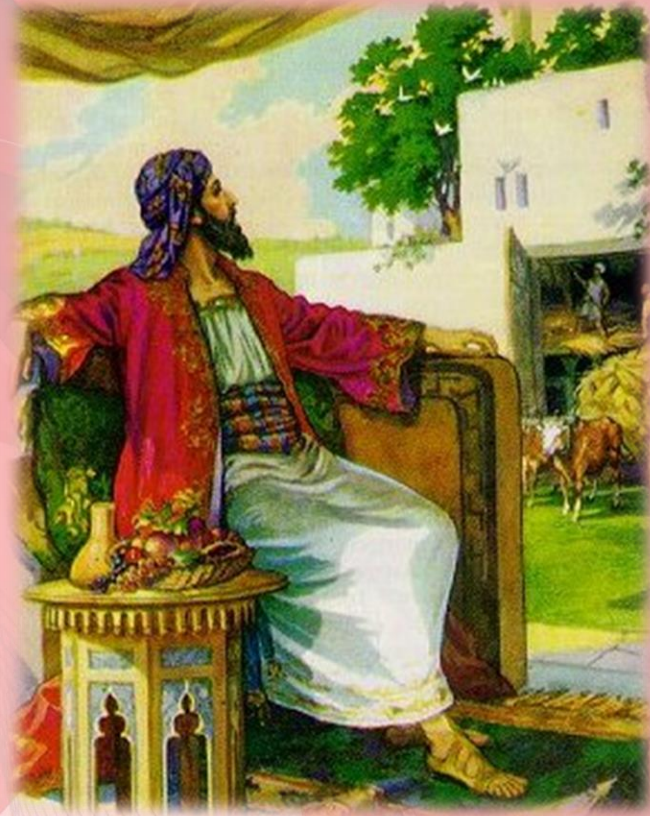
The possessions of a rich man were increased. He built larger barns and was satisfied. His pension was secured! What's wrong with this story (Lk. 12:13-21)?

The acts themselves were not wrong. As Jesus pointed out, the issue was that the man was greedy. He wasn't willing to share what God has given to him with others (Lk. 12:15).



As long as we have good physical and mental health, we must be doing right with everything God has put in our hands: strength, talents, resources...

All these things must be returned to its Owner. How?



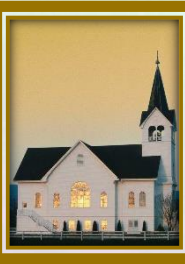
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children [...]" (Proverbs 13:22)



Our future is clear, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1Tim. 6:7). What should we do with the things we're going to leave behind?

It still belongs to God, no matter how much it is. The Bible encourages us to transfer our stewardship to our children and relatives (Pr. 13:22; 1Tim. 5:8). If there are no heirs, we should leave it to the Church.



In some countries, inheritance is automatically transferred to the children. If the inheritance laws in your country don't agree with your plans, you should write a will or testament so your inheritance is left to the right people.



ENJOYING OUR BLESSINGS

"for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations." (Proverbs 27:24 NIV)

Have you received blessings from God? Enjoy them! Don't squander them, use them wisely (Pr. 27:23). Give God your tithes and offerings (Dt. 12:11). Fulfill the needs of your household (Pr. 27:27). Don't forget about those in need (James 1:27).



It is up to us now to make provisions so that what we have been blessed with can be a blessing to others and the furtherance of God's work.

**"Dying legacies are a miserable substitute for living benevolence. The servants of God should be making their wills every day, in good works and liberal offerings to God."
(Counsels on Stewardship, p. 326).**



**WHEN SHOULD WE
GIVE BACK?**

DELAYED RETURN

"while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18)

As we grow older, we tend to cling to our possessions. It's never enough, the richer you are the richer you want to be (Eccl. 5:10). This is a trap from Satan to move us away from God.

The Bible encourages us to never put our hope in riches (1Tim. 6:17), but to be content with what we have (Pr. 30:8).



Some people may not give back to God what they can today because they fear they might not have enough during their old age. We are depriving people of blessings that they could have now, and we're depriving ourselves of our own blessing.

ADVANTAGES OF "NOW"

"But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth [...]" (Deuteronomy 8:18 NIV)

God owns everything we have (Ps. 24:1; Heb. 3:4). He gives us life, existence, and the strength to get what we have.

What are the advantages of giving back to God while we are alive?



The giver can see the results of their donation: a new building for the church, a young person studying at the university, a gospel campaign...

The receiving person or ministry can benefit today, when the need is greater

It gives a good example of generosity and loving others

It reduces the impact of the wealth tax

It guarantees that the donation goes to the right entity, as no courts or disgruntled relatives are involved

It shows that the heart of the giver is turned from selfishness to altruism

We're laying up treasure in Heaven

“If they [aged people] would take the position which God would have them, their last days might be their best and happiest. Those who have children in whose honesty and judicious management they have reason to confide, should let their children make them happy. Unless they do this, Satan will take advantage of their lack of mental strength and will manage for them. They should lay aside anxiety and burdens, and occupy their time as happily as they can, and be ripening up for heaven.”

E. G. W. (Testimonies for the Church, book 1, cp. 77, p. 423)