

Questions for further study - April 25<sup>th</sup> '10

God's unbreakable promises - PROVISION

1. Read Matthew 6:24-34. Explore what this passage shows us about the security we have in knowing God's provision for us. How does Jesus' teaching run counter to our culture?

2. Why should we give to God?

i) We should give because we desire to serve and obey the Lord.

- Its an expression of our "family likeness" to God.  
Ephesians 5:1-2
- Being free to give demonstrates where our focus lies.  
Matthew 6:19-21

ii) We should give because we have a shared responsibility to support the God-given mission of the church we belong to - to spread the good news of Jesus.

Romans 10:13-15, Philippians 1:3-6

iii) We should give out of compassion to those in need.

Matthew 25:31-40, James 2:14-16

3. How should we give?

Biblical guidelines for giving:

- Tithes - a tenth of all income. Used to maintain the place of worship & support the priesthood. Lev 27:30-33, Matt 23:23
- Giving the "first fruits" to God - Leviticus 23:9-21
- Giving to the poor Proverbs 28:27, Matthew 6:1-4

New Testament teaching concentrates on motivation & attitudes. It talks of the "grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7) - the ability to give generously, not out of compulsion or to impress others, but in response to God's grace to us; giving in a regular, planned & proportionate way.

Matthew 6:1-4; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 8,9.

What has challenged you most from this study?