

# WHAT JESUS SAYS...

## about Provision & Generosity

*Matthew 10:8 – Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

Jesus in preparation of sending the apostles out to witness to the Jews is giving them instructions as to what they are to expect, but more importantly what they are to do as they go along their way. He tells the apostles they will have the power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons. These are unique spiritual gifts given to the Apostles as they had such unique roles in the early church. They had this special power, but we do not have such power. Nevertheless, we also have been granted spiritual gifts that are unique to us and we should see the generality of Jesus' statement to mean that we also are to use our spiritual gift whatever that may be – teaching, praying, serving, helping, giving, or any other gift that we have been granted. As we work in our gifting, we show the love of Christ to those we meet along the way. And through that touch we extend to others, we draw people's hearts to God. But let us continue on to the second instruction that God gives in advancing the Kingdom message. He tells the apostles to freely give in response to what they have been freely given. That instruction is there for both the apostles and for us today. Why is this so important? We received the priceless gift of salvation without any cost...Jesus paid the price to make it available, we paid nothing. So how could we possibly put a price tag on others receiving it. We have received the word of God freely, and we give it back freely. The world does not think this way. The world thinks that when you give someone an incredibly valuable gift, you are to receive something in return. But when we share the gospel message expecting payment in return, it lessens the message and people will refuse to listen to it. Which is why Jesus says what we have freely received from Him we should give freely also, with no strings attached, no expectation of reward. Generosity matters to Jesus.