

# Fresh Oil



October 2008 (revised 2016)

Dear Fellow Servants,

In this season of Thanksgiving, as we see the abundance of the harvest God has blessed us with, I am reminded that “for everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required...” (Luke 12:48). With that in mind, let’s consider what Scripture says about generosity. Look at Proverbs 11:24:

***“There is one who scatters, yet increases more;  
And there is one who withholds more than is  
right, but it leads to poverty.”***

I want to focus your attention on the underlined portion of the verse quoted above. In Hebrew, this is one word and it means “straightness, equity, uprightness, truth, duty, and honesty.” The root verb for this noun carries with it the idea of declaring something right (in a moral sense) and beating something out flat (in the literal, physical sense), such as metal from the blacksmith’s oven. What this verse is saying is that when we don’t use our resources of money and material things to help those truly in need, poverty is just around the corner for us. Conversely, of course, the free heart that “scatters” will abound in added blessing. This is a great lesson for us at Thanksgiving, when we are often focusing on what we will get, such as a nice turkey dinner. Instead, as Christians, we need to be ‘others-focused’ in order to be carrying out God’s will. The next verse after this one continues this theme:

***“The generous man will be prosperous, and  
he who waters will himself be watered.”***

Let’s take some time this Thanksgiving to adopt a “live to give” frame of mind. Old habits can be hard to break, but with God’s help, nothing is impossible. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Your fellow servant,

**Pastor Brian**

*... I have been anointed with fresh oil*

PSALM 92:10



