

## 2 Samuel 8:9-11

***When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer, then Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi); and Joram brought with him articles of silver, articles of gold, and articles of bronze. King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued.***

Don't we just love when the Lord blesses us with things, like maybe a raise, or money just coming up that you didn't expect, or someone giving you something that you wanted but could not afford. I'm sure you can think of many things that the Lord has blessed you with over the years. But we must always realize that when the Lord blesses us, it's not always to keep for ourselves, but rather to bless others and giving back to the Lord.

Here in today's verses, King David defeated the enemies of "***Toi king of Hamath***" and in response it says, "***then Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi); and Joram brought with him articles of silver, articles of gold, and articles of bronze.***"

Or as we would say today, "***Dude, you defeated my enemies in war, and because you did, I want to reward you and show you my appreciation by giving you a bunch of money and stuff.***" Which sounds cool, but notice what King David didn't say, "***Oh no, it was my pleasure, keep your money.***" But rather he accepted the gift. Now that's not why King David defeated king Toi's enemies, but still, he took the gift. But we also read what King David did with it.

‡ "***King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued.***"

Once again, today we would say that King David gave everything king Toi gave him, along with tithing his paycheck as well (***along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued***) back to the Lord.

So does this mean that whenever the Lord blesses us that we are supposed to give it all back to Him? No, because when you do, usually it's something that comes from the heart.

For example, say you lose your job, and you are out of money, and the Lord gives you the money to pay your rent, He gave it to you for a specific reason, which is to pay your rent. It's also a teaching lesson for you to remind you that someday someone else may be in need and you can bless them just like the Lord has blessed you.

But then there are other things. One example is, most of you know that I write and record Christian music, and have all my music available on streaming audio, (Spotify, iTunes, Pandora, etc.) and with that I have vowed to the Lord that any money I get from the sale of any of my music goes back to Him, 100% of it and I do that by giving it to Compassion International. It's kind of like what King David did ***“along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued.”*** That would be sort of the same thing. I create music for His glory, and any proceeds off of that I give back for His glory. (Please note I do not say this to brag on myself, because it's my heart for the Lord and my gratitude back to Him)  
So yes, the Lord has blessed me with the gift of music, and I get payment for that music, but it's not to make a living off of, but once again for His glory.

Maybe the Lord has blessed you with things, or extra money, or gifts, or talents, or \_\_\_\_? And yes they are for you, but have you ever thought of blessing the Lord back by helping others with it, or giving part, or all of it back to the Lord?

Now, don't get me wrong, this is not a guilt teaching where now you have to start giving all this stuff back to the Lord. Once again, it's a heart thing, and the Lord does bless us to help us pay bills, and rent, and eat, etc. But He also blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others as well; Therefore ALWAYS thank Him for those blessing and pray about how He would have you to use them.

† **Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (MSG) *Be generous: Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns.  
Don't hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others. This could be your last night.***