

IMPROVING OUR SERVICE

Lesson 6

Collection from the Saints

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. The Collection.

1. As with the topics of prayer and the Lord's supper, there are many aspects of this subject that should be studied: purpose of the collection; time of observance; participants in the collection; attitude of the participants; etc.
2. This lesson focuses on the oral and mechanical aspects of the collection from the saints.

B. The Collection Is Important Because...

1. It is our obligation (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
2. It is our privilege (2 Cor. 8-9).
3. It is done "to the glory of the Lord" (2 Cor. 8:19; see also 9:12-13).

II. TWO COLLECTION MISTAKES.

A. Leaving the Impression It is Unimportant.

B. Leaving the Impression It is a Drudgery.

III. BETTER COLLECTIONS.

A. Be Heard (see Supplement 1).

B. Be Accurate.

1. The collection is not a part of the Lord's supper. If the collection follows immediately after the Lord's supper, make it clear to the audience that it is a separate act. Avoid, however, the worn out phrase "separate and apart from the Lord's supper".
2. The collection from the saints is exactly that, from the saints. Make it clear to the audience that visitors or non-members are not obligated to contribute.

C. Be Happy.

1. Remember, God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7), and a cheerful collector too (2 Cor. 8:16-24). You also are giving a contribution and it should be done "cheerfully".
2. It's all right to have a smile on your face when you say your remarks about giving and when you prepare to take up the collection. Don't leave the impression that the contribution is a toilsome task with that stone-cold look on your face. Remind the brethren what a great and joyful privilege it is to support, with a free-will offering, the Lord's work of evangelism, benevolence to needy saints, and edification. Smile when you say this.

3. Just like the scripture reading for the Lord's supper, you can read a scripture to encourage giving. A list of scriptures on giving can be posted. Choose a different scripture each time and don't read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 every Sunday.

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. Let's Go Out Now and Call For a Great Collection.
- B. Class Motto: "I Will Try To Do Better!"