

LENT 3

THE COLLECT

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. What do we beseech Almighty God to look upon?
A. The hearty desires of his _____ servants. (Psalm 10:17)
2. What do we pray Him to stretch forth?
A. The _____ hand of His Majesty. (Isaiah 41:10)
3. Against what will God's right hand be our defense?
A. Against all our _____. (Psalm 23:4)

INTRODUCTION.

In the Sermon on the Mount (found in Matthew 6) we see our three Lenten duties. We have studied the first two all ready during Lent 1 and Lent 2. They are f_____ and p_____. The third duty is almsgiving. This is the duty He speaks of first in the sermon. Now read what He has to say about it in St. Matthew 6:1-4.

Now if you read St. Mark 12:41-44, you will notice something that cheered Our Lord. What was it? The poor widow's almsgiving. It shows how even the poor can cheer and comfort Christ by their small offerings.

I. THE PRACTICE OF ALMSGIVING.

1. Examples of almsgiving in the Scriptures. Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedec, David and his people gave to build the Temple, the poor widow gave to the Temple services, our Lord gave alms, and the Apostles enjoined it.



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II. PRINCIPLES OF ALMSGIVING.

1. **From Thankfulness to God.** We give, thinking of all God has given to us and for us. (2 Corinthians 8:9, 1 Chron.29:12,14,15)
2. **With Sacrifice.** (2 Samuel 24:24) We should not ask our parents always for money to give; but some of you have pocket-money; some earn money in service or for running errands; some have presents of money now and then. Well! the thing to do is to set aside part of this, and give that to God. We ought to miss what we give, and feel the loss of it.
3. **Without Show and Display.** (St. Matthew 6:1-4)
4. **With Method.** We ought not to give casually, but with care and thought (like the wise men), and that brings us to—

III. THE PROPORTION OF ALMSGIVING. (I Corinthians 16:1)

1. **According to our Prosperity.** As God hath prospered us, *ie.* according to our means
2. **According to God's Goodness.** the Jews gave tithes or tenths. How much more should we give. We know so much better than they did how much God has done for us.

IV. PURPOSE OF ALMSGIVING.

Sometimes we give in church for God's work, for our clergy, for God's house and worship, for missions; and sometimes in church for sick, for poor, for hospitals, &c. This is really giving to god (see St. Matthew 25:35-41). And sometimes we may give not in church, as when elder boys and girls give something to help a widowed mother, or sick parents, or orphan brothers and sisters. All this is truly giving to God.



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V. PRIVILEGE OF ALMSGIVING.

1. **It brings Joy.** (See I Chronicles 29). The people rejoiced because they offered willingly, and in true giving the joy is always greater than the sacrifice.
2. **It brings Christ's Blessing to us.** (See Acts 20:35) Here are words of Christ not told us in the Gospels, yet preserved for us by St. Paul, remembered by the early Christians. How thankfully we ought to receive and listen to them, and strive to inherit the blessing they promise.

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