

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

10 August 2025

Being a Giver

Text: "Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back". *Luke 6:37-38*.

Are you a giver?

Are you generous with what God has blessed you by providing for you.

I think that most of us here today are good at sharing the resources that God has blessed us with.

Last week was forgiveness and today we couple forgiveness with giving.

They seem to go together.

One of the greatest gifts we can give is the gift of forgiveness.

At the same time we give that gift we give ourselves the gift of a heart free from hate, anger, and hostility.

Jesus spoke about giving and forgiven in the same breath.

Our verse for today can be translated: "Practice forgiving others, and you will be forgiven.

Practice giving to others, and they will give to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, people will pour into your lap. For the measure you use with others they in turn will use with you."

If we would search for the disciplines of discipleship that make it possible for us to discover the abundant life, we must focus on the privilege of being a giver.

Jesus calls us to generosity.

There is much disbelief regarding the beatitude about giving.

The teachings of Jesus contradict the popular concept of what it takes to experience happiness.

Humans in their fallen state believe that it is far more blessed to receive than it is to give.

Jesus taught the opposite.

We need to recognize that we have a built-in handicap at the point of believing this great teaching of Jesus Christ.

Whenever someone says something about giving, our "pocketbook-protection instinct" takes over, and we begin to put up defenses and reasons we should not participate in giving.

We are, by nature, fearful creatures.

We fear poverty and want.

We find it difficult to trust in the goodness of God and in the provisions he will make available to us.

We find inside ourselves an acquisitive instinct that expresses itself in grasping the things that promise happiness.

We are natural lovers of comfort and luxury. And it is easy for us to be deceived into believing that happiness comes through getting, having and keeping.

We live in a world that judges success in materialistic terms.

We are spiritually short-sighted in that we act as if we were earthlings alone and not citizens of the kingdom of heaven, which has an eternal dimension.

We overly invest in the present and forget about eternity.

We experience the joy of receiving, and it is so nice that we do not even investigate the possibility of experiencing the joy of giving.

We concentrate on what we cannot give.

When we come across the teachings of Jesus about giving, we offer excuses.

One of our favorite verses seems to be the comment of Peter in which he said to the beggar, "Silver and gold have I none."

We should move on and say, "Such as I have give I to you."

We concentrate on our comparative poverty in contrast to the riches of others.

Jesus was not talking about the giving of a specific gift or even the receiving of an offering.

He was talking about a life philosophy or reason for being.

That is, he was suggesting that we should commit ourselves to giving as a way of life.

We need to recognize the results of a giving way of life.

We often say, "Preparation pays off," or "Education pays off."

The banker will say, "Saving pays off."

The stockbroker will say, "Investing pays off."

Jesus says, "Giving really pays off, both with people and with God."

In marriage, partners learn that being stingy with each other produces stinginess in the other.

In marriage, if a husband and wife will try to out give each other, both of them will experience an abundance of joy and happiness.

Followers of Christ discover that the more they follow this discipline of Jesus, giving, the more they find the abundant life.

If you want to live a full life, become a giver.

If you want God to fill your heart and your pocket, you must decide to become a giver of yourself to God and to others.

Stinginess, selfishness, and a greedy grasping after things are restrictions that keep God from being able to fill our hearts and lives with an abundance.

The joy and profitability that come as a result of giving must be experienced.

It is like swimming: you will never learn to swim until you get into the water.

And the water has to be over your head in order to have to swim.

You should be wise today to give your mind to the God who created you.

Give you body to the service of God and others that you might glorify God, making him known through your life.

Give your treasure to God, and you will discover that you can't out give God.

Give God your past and your present, then trust him for the future.

Set some giving goals for yourself, and you will begin to live the abundant life.

But first of all, and of primary importance, you need to give yourself to Jesus Christ and trust him as your personal Lord and Savior of all you have, all you think and all you do.

Remember, your time is one of the precious gifts you can give to others.

Time, talents, resources, these are the gifts that God has given to us in order that we have something to give to others.

All we have is not for ourselves but it is what we have to share with others so we can experience the joy of giving. And in that, being fulfilled.