

## Sunday School Lesson for the Month of November 2017

### The Habit of Giving

(Luke 6:38)

#### Sunday, November 5, 2017

Jesus had the habit of being a giver at all times – If we would truly be His disciples, we must see life as an opportunity to give.

Giving is not instinctive – Giving is a habit that must be learned either by observing the actions of givers or by receiving instructions from those who have discovered that the highest possible happiness comes not to the receiver, but to the giver. How different life would be if we had the habit of facing each situation with the question, “what can I give?” Rather than, “what can I get?” Jesus saw life as an opportunity to give rather than to receive.

#### **I. Jesus saw God as the great giver [John 3:16].**

Nowhere in all of the Scripture is God pictured as a “getter.” Instead God is the great giver. Because God is by His nature a giver, it follows that He loves in a special way those who develop the grace of giving. God is not enriched by the gifts of men, nor is He threatened with poverty by the stinginess of men. The very nature of God’s love is shown in that He is a giver. If we would be the true sons and daughters of God, we must let His disposition lead us to become givers.

#### Sunday, November 12, 2017

#### **II. Christ was a great Giver.**

John describes the Savior as being “full of Grace” [John 1:14]. This means that everything Jesus did was done without a price tag being attached to it. He was moved with the adequacy and the sufficiency of God to meet the spiritual needs of a bankrupt humanity. He was not looking for profit or gain. He was moved to be a giver for the good it could do and because of the joy it could bring to His own heart.

Jesus declared, “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” because giving does bring more happiness, excitement, fulfillment, and satisfaction than does the accumulating, hoarding, and the keeping of material substances.

## Sunday, November 19, 2017

### **III. Jesus encouraged His disciples to be generous givers.**

“You received without paying, give without pay.” [Matt. 10:8ESV] Jesus encouraged His disciples to go out and bestow the gifts of God upon those to whom they would have the privilege of ministering. It is tragic that many of us think that the only gifts we have are monetary. There are other gifts that can enrich the hearts and lives of others far greater than a gift of money.

- A. We can give the gift of ourselves to those around us in a manner that will be helpful to them.
- B. We can give the gift of affirmation to others.
- C. We can give the gift of encouragement to others.
- D. We can give the gift of forgiveness to those who have mistreated us.
- E. We can give the gift of appreciation and praise to those who are worthy.
- F. We can give the gift of friendship to those who feel lonely and feel that nobody cares.
- G. We can give the gift of kindness, which is language that even the blind can see and the deaf can hear.
- H. We can give the gift of our Christian testimony to the world around us.

We need to accept the philosophy of life that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Jesus had the habit of being a giver. This is a habit that you and I can develop as well.

Make good habits, and your habits will make you good.