

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of November 2013

**The Command To Give**

(Luke 6:38)

**(Sunday, November 3, 2013)**

As we contemplate obedience to the commandment of our Lord, it would be wise for us to recognize that there is always a promise involved or implied in every commandment of our Lord. For some reason we usually think of a commandment as either placing restrictions on us or making undesirable demands on us; because of this improper understanding of the nature of the commandments of our Lord, we often overlook the precious promises that are contained in them. This is particularly true with regard to God's commandment to give:

**I. The Command to Concentrate on giving.**

There is only one word of command in the text. That command is found in the first word of the text of which Jesus said, "GIVE!"

- A. Giving is the way to maturity
- B. Giving is the way to usefulness and fruitfulness
- C. Giving is the way to happiness [Acts 20:35]. Our Lord would have each of us focus our attention and efforts on the activity of giving. We should be intelligent and generous givers in every area of life.

**(Sunday, November 10, 2013)**

**II. What can we give?**

Almost automatically one thinks in terms of giving money when the subject of giving is introduced. Because of our built-in tendency to be selfish, and because of our pocket-book protection instinct, we usually react negatively to the opportunity and the responsibility of being a giver.

There are many things that a child of God can give and be enriched, instead of impoverished by giving.

- A. We can give Christian love to those around us. Christian Love has been defined as a persistent, unbreakable spirit of good will toward others.
- B. We can give mercy to those who are unfortunate and undeserving (Luke 6:36).
- C. We can give understanding and toleration to those with whom we disagree (Luke 6:37).

- D. We can give forgiveness to those who mistreat us (Luke 6:37).
- E. We can give praise to those who are serving faithfully.
- F. We can give encouragement to those who are struggling.
- G. We can give inspiration to those whose lives come under our influence.
- H. We can give gratitude to those who are generous.
- I. We can give the gospel to those who are lost.

**(Sunday, November 17, 2013)**

**III. The Promise Connected with this Commandment.**

Because of our negative attitude toward giving, we miss the promise of the text. Look again at the words of Jesus. Following the one word of command, the promise is this: *“And it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom.”*

Jesus declares that the person who lives to be a giver will without fail receive a bounty from his fellow humans as well as the blessings of a generous God.

A part from the obedience to the command to give, one can never experience the promise that is connected with it. Our Lord said, *“if you love me, you will obey what I command”* (John 14:15). We prove our love for our Lord who gave his life for us by initiating his example and giving ourselves all that we are in unselfish service to others.