

Sunday School Lesson for the month of November 2011

## **The Habit of Giving**

(Luke 6:38)

**(Sunday, November 6, 2011)**

Jesus says to us in this text that we are to give and to possess a spirit of giving and not to be selfish and hoarding. If we give, we shall receive back much more. In fact, our cups shall be running over. God will pour all the good things of this earth into our lives. The principle is clear and challenging: a person receives what he gives. This is definitely true of God and usually true of man. What a man puts into life is what he will get out of life.

If we live to give, God will see to it that we receive; but if we live only to get, God will see to it that we lose. If we give, He will give to us, in good measure – pressed down, shaken together and running over.

In the Ancient marketplace, a seller would place grain in a container. Then he would shake the container in order to get the grain down so he could add more grain. That is how God measures for the generous and those who give, He just keeps putting in more. In fact, He gives so that our cup runs over.

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 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.

**(Sunday, November 13, 2011)**

**I. Jesus saw God as the Great Giver....(John 3:16)**

Nowhere in all of the scriptures is God pictured as a “getter.” Instead, God is the great giver. Because God is by His very nature, a giver, it follows that He loves in a special way those who develops 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 20, 2011)**

**II. Christ was a Great Giver.**

John 1:14, describes the Savior as being “full of grace.” This means that everything Jesus did was done without a price tag being attached to it. He was moved with 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 accumulating, hoarding and the keeping of material substances.

**(Sunday, November 27, 2011)**

**III. Jesus encouraged His disciples to be generous Givers.**

Matthew 10:8 (RSV), says, “you received without paying, give without pay.” Jesus encouraged His disciples to go out and bestow the gifts of God upon those to whom they would have the privilege of ministering. Jesus had the habit of being a giver. This is a habit that you and I can develop as well. Examine your motives.....What about the sincerity of your giving?

Is giving worth it? Yes, “for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Understand, that we are not just talking about money. We are stewards of all that we possess. Not just money alone, but for life in its entirety and the possibility of giving life; self; and wealth to God for eternity.

Paul says of the Macedonians, that they “first gave themselves unto the Lord.”

It is more blessed to give than to receive!!

It is our duty to give!

It is for God’s Glory!