



Tuesday, April 8, 2008

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## A Commitment to Give

### Sermon One: "The Power of Giving"

Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

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- At the beginning of 2008, we, as a congregation, entered into a covenant agreement to renew our commitment to the Lord in the areas of worship, service, and giving.
- As we consider our commitment to give, it is important for us, as believers, to understand and appreciate the power of giving.
- Just as our worship and our service empower us, so does our giving.
- The word, give, is used 884 times in the Bible in 815 different sections.
- We find the word *give* from Genesis 1:15 to Revelations 22:12; from the first chapter of the first book of the Bible to the last chapter of the last book.
- Of the 29 parables Jesus spoke of in the gospels, 16 of them dealt with people and their money.
- Perhaps God is trying to tell us something.
- Perhaps He is wants us to know that just as our faith is an important aspect of our Christian journey, so is our giving.
- In today's society most people look at giving as a burden or as an obligation.
- However, by the end of this series it is our hope that you will see giving as God sees it - not only as an opportunity to bless others but also as an opportunity for you to be blessed.
- Read our scripture text and see what Jesus said concerning the power of giving.

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- Many biblical scholars believe that our text is Luke's account of the famous *Sermon on the Mount* found in Matthew chapters five through seven.
- In this sermon, Jesus taught His disciples about the importance of a righteous attitude and about godly behavior.
- In verses 27 – 36, Jesus talked about loving our enemies.
- In verse 36, He said to His disciples, "Therefore be merciful, just as your father is merciful".
- His teaching was about how we should not be so judgmental and that we must learn to forgive others.
- In our scripture text, Jesus talked about giving; another topic that involves our attitude as well as our behavior, and the power it has.
- What is unique about this text is that Jesus was not talking about how the recipients of our giving would benefit, but how we, as givers, would benefit from our giving.
- Let us examine more closely what Jesus said in this profound verse:
  1. When we give, God will, in His providence, give back to us.
  2. God will give back to us not just what we have given, but He will give us even more (overflow).

*"Pressed down, shaken together and running over...."*
  3. God will use others to bless you.

*"...shall men give unto your bosom" The New International Version (NIV) says, "...will be poured into your lap".*

Some blessings are just going to fall into your lap. You did not plan on it or expect it, it will just happen.

- That is the power of giving.