

Sermon Notes -- God's Economy – Luke 6:20-38, 18:18-23

Read Luke 6:20-38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." – Luke 6

You Can Bless for the Wrong Reason -- God's Politics

God's politics are that if you'll do people a favor, God will reward you for it. Don't expect anything from the person you blessed.

Blessing Takes Effort -- A Closer Look at God's Economy

Read Luke 18:18-23

"You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." – Luke 18:22

How do you think he should give the money away?

- The guy loads up a dump truck with cash and coins, drives down to Main Street, and starts to pull the lever to dump it, and Jesus jumps in the cab and says, *"Whoa! You can't just dump it. Who knows if only the poor people will get it?"*
- So instead he writes a check to his church. But Jesus steps between the man and the smiling pastor and says, *"I told you to give it to the poor. If I meant for you to give it to the church, I'd have said, 'Give it to the church.'"*
- So he goes down to the **homeless shelter**, changes the check to 'Homeless Shelter.' Again, **Jesus grabs the check and says, "Give it... YOU give it... to the poor.**

The man asks Jesus, **"How can I follow you? If I give this money out to the poor, figuring out what they need,** making sure it is a blessing to them and not a curse, helping them make the transition from having nothing to having something, it will take the rest of my life. **When am I going to have time to follow you?"**

Jesus begins to smile the biggest grin you've ever seen, waiting for this man to hear what he himself just said. "How can I follow you if I have to spend the rest of my life helping the poor become middle class?"

What is the will of God? *Can I suggest that it is to help people have great relationships and to relieve the great suffering of the world?*

Bless Three People This Week

Bless three people a week, whether they deserve it or not. Wait for the Spirit to pinch you. Give it some thought. Give it some prayer. Don't pick the most annoying person in your life right now. You're not ready for that. Pick two people you consider really deserving and wait for God to tell you what to do. Then pick one person who doesn't deserve it at all, and then bless them.

Questions to Ponder – Luke 6:20-38 & Luke 18:18-23

Agree/Disagree: By statements you agree, place a checkmark.

- What I am willing to give will determine what I will get.
- I should give to whoever asks me.
- Truly blessing people takes some effort.

1. What is God's economy? What do you have to give people? What do you get in return?

2. How is God's economy better/different than the world's economy?

3. Why would Jesus ask you to make your blessing a secret?

4. Is there a right way to help people and a wrong way?

5. What steps are you going to take to prepare to bless people this next week? How will you know who to bless? How will you know how to bless?

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