

The Kingdom Of God Pt 4

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

MightyFortressChurch.org

Scripture Study

The Law Of Reciprocity

Luke 6:38

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. (KJV)

✠ This declaration by Jesus was much more than just a good suggestion. The first eight words of Luke 6:38 reveal a spiritual principle that we can see at work in every situation in life. In the same teaching Jesus made this statement. "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31) Jesus didn't say this just to get us be nice to those around us. Yes, it is right and just to show kindness to others but there is more. Jesus was revealing a law of the kingdom. When we connect Luke 6:31 with Luke 6:38 what Jesus was teaching becomes much clearer. For with the same measure that you mete withal it shall be measured to you again. When we do to others as we would have them do to us we are measuring good seed and good seed will return as a good harvest. When we give good measure we will receive good measure. If you need love, give love to others. If you need hope, give hope to others. If you need money, give money to others. The way you treat your neighbor is the way you will be treated. To love your neighbor as yourself is the fulfillment of this law.

Luke 6:36-38

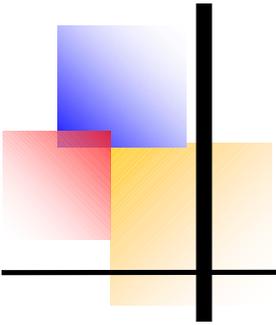
36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

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." (NIV)

✠ In verses 36-38 Jesus unveils the law of reciprocity. He said "...be merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you." Jesus could have added, be merciful and you will be shown mercy. These words of Jesus "Give, and it shall be given unto you" point us to the verse concerning seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added. Giving is a foundational law of the kingdom. It is imperative that we learn to be givers, giving of ourselves and our goods, showing mercy and forgiving. Without giving we cannot truly seek first the kingdom of God. God is the ultimate giver.

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Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (KJV)

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. (NIV)

✠ The Lord said to test Him in the tithe. You cannot out give God no matter how hard you try. He will open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Do you have any room for blessings in your life? Like everything else in God's Word there are conditions that must be met. Our job is to find the conditions, meet them and God will do what He said.

2 Corinthians 9:7-15

7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

9 As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

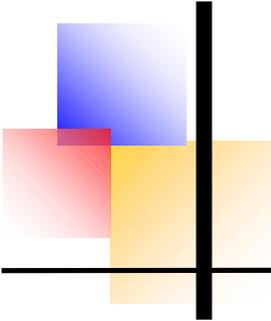
✠ God's desire is to make all grace abound to us. At all times and in everything we do, we will have more than enough to meet every need. Every good work we do will abound and prosper. This will make us rich in every way so we can be generous to everyone on every occasion. This abundance and generosity will result in praise and thanksgiving to God. All this abundance is given by God in order to bring praise to His name.

12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (NIV)



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✠ Most professing Christians have barely enough to meet their own needs. Don't fall into the trap of false humility by thinking God is getting glory out of you going without. The scripture says God gets glory by you having so much supply that you are able to prosper in every good work, in every situation having more than enough to bless others. Just think how different the local church would be if all the members were abundantly blessed instead of always being in need. The righteous should be an example to the sinners of God's generosity and abundance. The local church should be a unending supply of all of God's provision.

Deuteronomy 8:17-19

17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. (KJV)

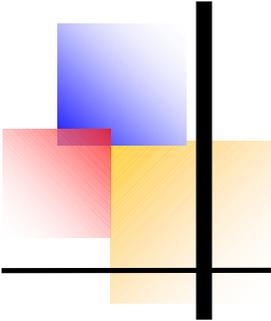
✠ It is God that gives us power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant. One of the reasons Christians never walk in any kind of abundance is that they don't know they have a covenant with God. Over the years I have met very few people that have spent the kind of time it takes to study their covenant. There are even fewer that walk in covenant with God. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." (Hosea 4:6)

Mark 10:29-30

29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel

30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields-- and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. (NIV)

✠ I'm not sure I could believe this if anyone but Jesus had said it. Apparently it was hard to believe that day as well. He had to preface His statement with "I tell you the truth." Today we would say, "I'm not lying to you." In this present age you will receive 100 times more than you gave up for Jesus and the gospel's sake. The world measures return in percentages of six, eight or even 10 to 15 percent. In God's kingdom returns measure 3000, 6000, and 10,000 percent, some 30, 60, and 100 fold.



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The Law Of Use

Matthew 25:14-20

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

✠ It is important to note that their abilities determined the amount they were given.

16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more.

17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.

18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

Matthew 25:21-23

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' (NIV)

✠ Although each servant was given a different amount each were rewarded according to their effort, not according to the amount they were given. To whom much is given, much is required. God rewards us by the effort we give Him. We can see this truth in the story of the widow woman.

Mark 12:41-44

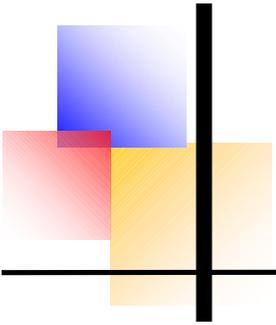
41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.

44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything-- all she had to live on." (NIV)

✠ The quantity wasn't the key. The way each used what they had was what mattered.



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1 Corinthians 12:22-24

22 Nay, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be more feeble are necessary: 23 and those (parts) of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely (parts) have more abundant comeliness;

24 whereas our comely (parts) have no need: but God tempered the body together, giving more abundant honor to that (part) which lacked; (ASV)

- ✠ God doesn't measure things the way we do. He said the ones we think to be weak are necessary. And the ones we think less honorable, upon these we should bestow more abundant honor. God judges us by the way we use what He has given us, not by what we have. He gives each according to their ability. Never judge yourself by how God has made others. Use what God has given you according to your ability and God will be pleased and you will be blessed.

Matthew 25:24-30

24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

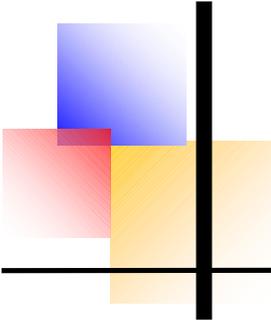
27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.

29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (NIV)

- ✠ The wicked servant tried to justify himself before his Master. He accused the Master of being unjust in order to justify his own laziness and wickedness. Notice how the Master in verse 26 asked the servant a question. The master said, did you really know that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? The Master rewarded two of them with much, according to their faithfulness over a little. He said "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" That doesn't sound like a wicked unjust Master to me.



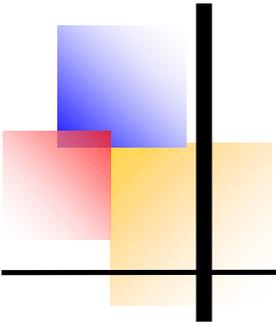
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✠ Many times we don't increase because we are not using all that has been given to us. When we are faithful to use all we have, at all times, more will be given. We can see this law of use in physical exercise and in education. It is also true concerning spiritual matters. If we don't use it we will lose it. People want to get in shape without any effort or go from poverty to wealth over night. We must first take what God has given and multiply it, steadily and patiently. To want overnight success is lust and sin and violates God's laws of gradual growth and increase. If all you have is \$1.00 and you double it you now have \$2.00. It isn't much but you increased. If you keep doubling that \$1.00 after awhile it will turn into thousands. If you double \$100,000.00 your increase is still twice as much but there is a vast difference between a \$1.00 and a \$100,000.00 increase. People get on the wrong side of this law, they make decisions void of God's wisdom and they bury their money in the ground by refusing to be givers. They are not using what they have been given and what they do have is taken away. Remember the teaching of Jesus concerning increase. "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

Note: As you read the extra blessing this week note that this is the law of reciprocity. We are to live by this law in the face of every adverse conditions.



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Study Questions

1. Complete the following verse. "Give, and it shall..."
2. Luke 6:38 covers all giving not just giving money. T or F.
3. Expound on 2 Corinthians 9:7-15.
4. For what reason does God give power to get wealth?
5. Summarize Matthew 25:14-23.
6. Share any insight that you received concerning the law of use.
7. Why was one of the servants considered wicked and lazy?
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?

Extra Blessing

(Study To Show Yourself Approved Unto God 2 Timothy 2:15)

Matthew 5:38-48

Luke 6:27-38