

Title: Choose Your Measurement

Text: Luke 6:38

Date: February 3, 2013

Place: Decatur Church of God

***You and I greatly determine the blessings we will receive?**

Luke 6:38 *(The key to a life changing principle)*

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."

In my Bible, I have underlined the word you in the phrase "with the measure you use." The word you indicates that the measure is according to my standard not God's.

It is the knowledge of this truth that sets us free.

The Go-Giver Principle:

When I go to the right source and am willing to sacrifice I will greatly determine my return.

*Three Props:

1. GLOVE—represents the source
 - a. The first thing is that we must determine our source.
 - b. Jesus says, "Give."
 - c. We need to determine to whom we are going to give.
 - d. We need to determine from whom we are going to receive.
 - e. We need to know our source.
2. CROSS—which stands for sacrifice.
 - a. How much am I willing to give?

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- b. How much am I willing to sacrifice?
- c. How much am I willing to commit to that source?

3. BASKET—the size of the return.

- a. We determine the size.
- b. By the same standard that we use to give.

This principle works in every area of your life.

I. **Friendship**

A. Are you lonely?

- 1. First you determine whom you want as a friend.
- 2. You determine your source.

B. How much will I give to this friendship?

- 1. Is this going to be simply an acquaintance or a close friend?
- 2. How much time will I spend with this individual?
- 3. How much time will I be willing to invest?
- 4. How much will I sacrifice?

*At this point we determine our return. What you invest you will see in return.

If you simply want a casual acquaintance and sacrifice in proportion, your return has been determined.

If you give a small basket that is what you shall receive.

Another prop is a **thimble**. I know you can hardly see it. But this is the size basket of commitment that is often given and therefore exactly what Jesus says they will receive in the end.

Jesus said, "With the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

*You and I determine the amount of our return in life.

*Many, many times I have listened to people who have given the incredible stories, sharing their frustrations, believing that they have become a victim of life. They have never understood that what we are receiving at this very moment is in a great proportion determined by what we did yesterday.

The farmer understands that he's got to put some seed in the ground, the source. The number of seeds that he puts, that's sacrifice. It will determine the harvest.

Any farmer who in the fall expects a harvest who did not plant anything in the spring, we would call a fool.

Many people ignore this principle. They expect a harvest when they have failed to sacrifice. They become disillusioned with life.

Matthew 9:27-30

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

²⁸When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

²⁹Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; ³⁰and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."

II. Faith

A. The source is Jesus.

B. The sacrifice is evident in 27-28. They cried out to Jesus, they came to Him.

1. Do you believe? Yes, Lord.
2. Be healed, according to your faith.

*The day these blind men were healed, there were many other blind people in Israel. But they were willing to cry out. They were willing to sacrifice. They were willing to make a commitment.

III. Let's talk about physical needs.

2 Kings 4:1-7

The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves."

²Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

"Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil."

³Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. ⁴Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

⁵She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. ⁶When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one."

But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

⁷She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

Here was a woman whose sons were about to be sold into slavery.

- A. Vs. 1, the woman cries out to Elisha.
- B. Vs. 2, Elisha asks her, “What do you have I the house right now?” She replies, “Nothing but a jar of oil.”
- C. Vs. 3, Go borrow vessels.
 - 1. What is the lady’s source?—Her neighbors
 - 2. What is the sacrifice?
 - a) Her pride.
 - b) The amount of vessels (do not gather just a few)

*In other words, her return is going to be in direct proportion to her sacrifice.

She could have been embarrassed. She could have cut God short. She could have limited Him. She could have stopped short of the best that God had.

She could have said that this is my opportunity.

- D. Vs. 6, when the vessels were filled, the oil stopped.
 - 1. The oil would stop with 2 vessels.
 - 2. The oil would stop with 10 vessels.
 - 3. The oil would stop with 100 vessels.

The return was determined by the faith to go out and gather vessels for the oil.

IV. Relationships

Matthew 5:23-24 (*Coming to prayer but discovering a wrong relationship with one’s brother*)

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against

you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

- A. The source is the brother who has something against you.
- B. The sacrifice is reconciliation with that brother.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

- C. If you forgive, God will forgive you.
 - 1. If you do not, God will not forgive you.
- D. The size of your return is forgiveness from God.

V. The tithe

Malachi 3:8-11

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'"

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰Bring 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. ¹¹I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty.

- A. The source—God (He says you are robbing me).
- B. The sacrifice—bring the whole tithe into the storehouse.

1. Quit playing around.
 2. Prove the source.
- C. The size of sacrifice determines God's response in blessing.
1. Open the windows of heaven.
 2. Rebuke the devourer.

*You determine the size of your return. The only people who don't like tithing messages are people who don't tithe.

Let's go on. I'll find something you like.

VI. Salvation.

Luke 19:1-10 (Story of Zacchaeus and his salvation)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' "

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

- A. The source in the story is Jesus.
 - 1. He wanted to see Jesus.
 - 2. He was unable because of the crowd.
- B. He climbed into a sycamore tree. He was beginning to pay the price.
 - 1. It took some effort.
 - 2. Possibly took ridicule from the crowd.
 - 3. Jesus called him out of the tree.
 - 4. After seeing Jesus, Zacchaeus says, "What I have taken...I will restore fourfold."
- C. Notice the return! Today salvation has come to this house.
 - 1. Zacchaeus determined the size of the return.

VII. Another example is prayer.

Luke 11:5-13

Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'

⁷"Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

⁹"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg,

will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

- A. The source is the friend.
- B. He asked for a size—three loaves.
 - 1. He predetermined his size.
 - 2. He set his limit.
- C. What is his sacrifice? Vs. 8, his persistence.
 - 1. He stuck it out!

*It works in your marriage too!

- We ought to put as much into the marriage after we are married as we did before we were married.
- Many men are hurting because the receiving basket is the same size as our giving (sacrifice) basket.
- Wives, where are the “Amen’s.”

*An old farmer gives us an example of this principle.

He had some grandsons who came to visit. In the middle of the hot day, they got thirsty. Here was an old pump.

One brother pumped until he got tired. Then the other one took over. After about 10 minutes, there was still not water.

Grandpa came over and said, “The reason you’re not getting anything out of that pump, out of the well, is because you haven’t put anything in it. That pump needs to be primed.”

How many of you know what priming the pump is? After the service you can educate those sitting beside you.

Grandpa taught the boys that day what priming the pump was. He sent the boys to the creek with a bucket. After returning with a full bucket, Grandpa proceeded to teach a lesson about life.

He poured that water down a chute, and it got to the cork, and the cork began to expand. “Now boys start pumping. You’ve been pumping air. Now start pumping water.”

You’ve got to put something in, to get something out.”

Some people stand at the fireplace of life and expect heat when they haven’t put any wood in there yet.

The employee goes to the boss for a raise before he does the work to merit it.

I want to get close to God so I look for some magic formula. I come for 1 hour on Sunday morning and don’t invest in any other time; don’t invest in prayer, don’t invest in reading the scriptures, and then wonder why I don’t feel close to God throughout the week.

When you put the water in, expect the water out. Keep pumping; don’t give up.

How many times in the area of giving have we grown weary and almost gave up just before the water began to flow. The cool clear refreshing liquid has been ours and will be again.

Prop: GLASS OF WATER

Oh, that’s good! Don’t you wish you had some?

Have you learned the lesson? Give, and it will be given to you.

Luke 6:38

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.”