

*Better To Give  
Than Receive*



# Words Worth Remembering



- Acts 20:35
- Luke 14:12ff – In giving freely, we actually end up securing a greater blessing than what we gave to somebody else.
- Mark 10:29-30 – One might wonder what the benefit is to this, since observation seems to prove this rarely happens in a literal sense. Some sacrifices never come back to you. “Pay it forward” is saccharine drivel to pessimists masquerading as realists. To the one who sees things from a spiritual perspective, though, what *does* come back to him or her feels like a hundredfold. There is sentiment attached to things given in love.

# *Not All Giving Is Equal*

Luke 11:5-8

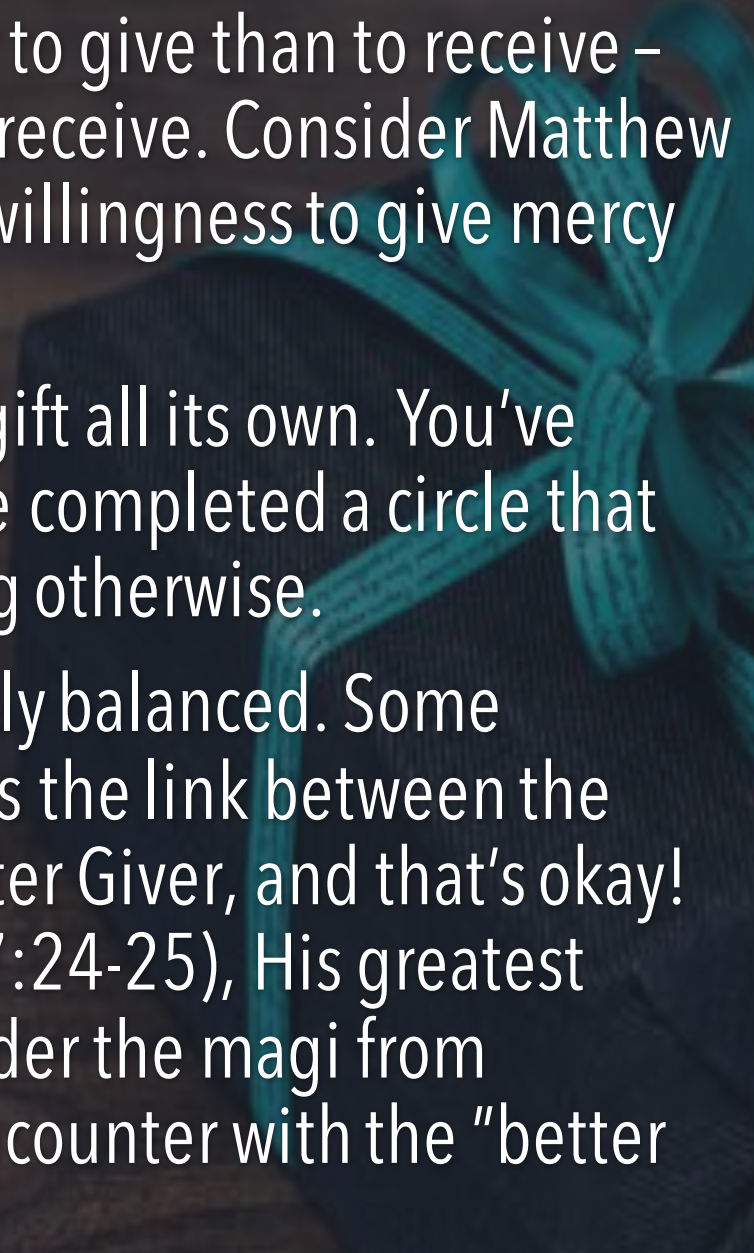
- Giving out of resentment or annoyance doesn't produce the same spiritual/emotional reward as the kind of giving prescribed by Jesus.
- Similarly, Paul described the kind of attitude he expected the Corinthians to have in their giving (2 Cor. 9:6-7).
  - Gifts are not measured in monetary value, but in the attitude behind them (2 Cor. 8:1-15).



# Better Giving Through Better Receiving



- Luke 11:11-13, Matthew 7:7-11
- Good giving often comes as a result of good receiving. That is, through receiving input, criticism, advice, or drawing from personal experiences. We must be aware of what people need. Be careful about only giving what *you* would want, or what *you* need, then becoming resentful when it is not received warmly.
- Whether it's something as simple as a holiday or birthday gift, or as serious as assistance during a tragedy, we must receive input and properly apply our talents and resources to the need of the moment (Romans 12:6-15).

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- A dark, textured gift box is shown in the background, partially obscured by a large, teal-colored ribbon bow. The box and bow are set against a dark, slightly blurred background.
- It's not always a matter of it being better to give than to receive – sometimes you'd *better* give in order to receive. Consider Matthew 6:14-15 and 5:7, which clearly link our willingness to give mercy with the mercy that will be shown to us.
  - Receiving a gift with gratitude can be a gift all its own. You've granted another the joy of giving. You've completed a circle that would have been relationship-damaging otherwise.
  - Giving and receiving isn't always perfectly balanced. Some relationships make it impossible, such as the link between the Creator and the created. God is the greater Giver, and that's okay! Since He needs nothing from us (Acts 17:24-25), His greatest desire is to give us what we need. Consider the magi from Matthew 2:1-12, who surely left their encounter with the "better end of the deal."

*Is It Always Better To Give?*

# *Beautiful Imbalance*

- By design, there is a built-in imbalance in the Creator-creature relationship (2 Corinthians 8:9):
  - All of life is sustained by Him (Colossians 1:15-17).
  - We are forgiven, as a gift. We have nothing to forgive and all to be forgiven (Ephesians 2:4-9).
  - We received adoption (Galatians 4:5, Romans 8:15).
  - We received the Spirit, so that we could understand the things freely given to us (1 Corinthians 2:12).
  - We received life in abundance, even though the effect of man's transgression was death (Romans 5:14-18).