

It is Much Better to Give Than Receive

Fuel Your Faith 9

January 6, 2022

In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Acts 20.35

Today on Fuel Your Faith, we'll take a look at a very important passage in Acts ... which speaks to us on how it is much better to give than to receive.

In the last part of [Acts 20](#), Paul is wrapping up his final remarks to the elders in Ephesus. It's actually quite an emotional scene, as most departures are when you're not sure if you see the other person's face again. [Acts 20](#) closes with the Ephesian elders following Paul all the way out to the ship ... going as far as they possibly could with him. Just before this he had charged them to keep watch over the flock of believers and committed them to God and the word of His grace. It was only in being rooted in God's truth that they could expect an inheritance among those who are sanctified. And then, he turns his focus to the need to show compassion in their ministry.

What can we learn from this passage? What is the principle that must be applied?

Compassion must rule in our life. Paul is a great example. Whether it was in what he said as he preached or by his setting the example through raising funds for the churches in Judea ... Paul made it his central focus to *remember the weak*. So must we. The "weak" here are those who are unable to provide for themselves financially ... rather than those unwilling to work because of laziness. There will always be those less fortunate than we are ... no matter what our income level is. As an apostle and tentmaker, Paul probably didn't make much ... but he points to his own example of sacrifice and giving to those who had little. Paul made sure to live by what he taught. His helping the weak was an application of what he said in [Galatians 6.2](#) where he writes: "carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." He taught that we are not to be weary in doing good so that we may have opportunity to help those who are in need ... inside and outside the church.

Ultimately, Paul points to the best possible example in Jesus who said, "it is more blessed to give than receive." This is a truth that Jesus exemplified to the fullest. Now this quote is not found in the gospels, in fact it is the only quotation of Jesus in Scripture not found in the gospels. But it must have been known to the early Christians and handed down orally. Christians must be more inclined to give than to take. It was Solomon who said, *he who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord*, [Proverbs 19.17](#). Good and faithful stewards of God are those who share with their brothers and sisters some of the blessings they have received. It has been said, *in no way do people come closer to God than in generous giving*.

Now, we all might agree this is all true, but what is the evidence of what you actually believe?

What does your practice reveal? Disciples of the Lord must consider carefully where happiness comes from. It is never found in seeking things. We need to get used to giving. Our love for others will drive us to meet needs.

How strong is your love for God and for your fellow Christians and needy people in our world?

What encouraging thing can you do today to help the weak? Maybe you can leave a larger tip today when you go out for lunch or dinner. Maybe you can donate some food to a local food bank ... or volunteer to serve at a homeless shelter. There are those in foreign countries who need bibles. There are local organizations who try to help single moms with buying diapers. There are foundations you can donate to help people struggling with cancer. And there are groups still taking donations to help victims of last month's tornados in Arkansas and Kentucky. There are always benevolent needs inside the congregation that you can support by giving to the church ... or donating those funds individually. When you look, you will be amazed at all the opportunities God provides you to be generous. Why don't you put God to the test today? Truly it is more blessed to give than receive.

Thank you for listening to Fuel Your Faith. Join us again tomorrow as we take another look at how love endeavors to meet other's needs.