

To the Generous, God is Generous

Fuel Your Faith 8

January 5, 2022

Do you have the heart of a giver? Why is it so important that we do? And how is all of this connected to true discipleship?

Today, on Fuel Your Faith, we'll look at Luke chapter 6 where Jesus calls for generosity ... love in action ... while issuing a promise. The one who gives will also receive. Our generosity will be honored by God. To the generous, God is generous.

All of the teaching in the section we will consider today is the application of [Luke 6.31](#) where Jesus says, *Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them*. This of course, is a principle that should govern all of life. While the saying did not originate with Jesus, as forms of it appear throughout Judaism, Greek religion, Hinduism, and Buddhism, there is a very important difference in the way Jesus recited "the Golden Rule" that the others don't. While men like Confucius said, "Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself," Jesus turns the expression into a positive and by doing so, calls for selfless love. That is, love that is focused on others and not on oneself. What Jesus commands is that we treat others in the way we would want to be treated by them ... *even if they do not love that way in return*. This is how God loves. And it is the way God wants us to love as His love has been poured into our hearts by the Spirit who has been given to us.

To this, Jesus adds in [Luke 6.32](#): *if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?* The love of the world is shown to those who love them. He says, *even sinners do that*. They lend money to those they know will pay it back. He says, *even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full*. But those who love Jesus are to demonstrate a very different love. Note how Christian love is the opposite of self-focused. The Christian loves his or her enemies, does what is good, and lends *expecting nothing in return*. In fact, the Christian is to take the initiative in being merciful, just as the Father is merciful. Jesus says, *forgive and you will be forgiven*, [Luke 6.37](#).

Now, let's look even closer at [Luke 6.37-38](#). There are two negative commands, followed by two positives. Jesus says, *do not judge, and you will not be judged*. Then, *do not condemn, and you will not be condemned*. Now, at first glance, we may feel Jesus is just being repetitive when he says these two things. But by adding that second command, Jesus emphasizes what happens sometimes when we act as if we are the final judge who has the ability to pass sentence over someone. Jesus reminds us here that this is not our place, because without His grace and goodness we would be in the same place as those we wish to condemn. It has been said that "judging others is at best a sign of spiritual cancer, and at its worst a sign of spiritual death." It is a serious thing because it is merciless. It also attaches the wrong motives to people's actions and sees them in the worst light. Remember, our merciful Father has merciful children.

That, I believe, is why there are also two positive commands here. First, we must have a forgiving disposition. *Forgive and you will be forgiven*, is said at the end of v. 37. This type of

spirit is at the heart of discipleship. And then Jesus says, *give, and it will be given to you*. We must have a giving disposition. We give, we meet needs, expecting nothing in return. When we give and someone misuses the funds, resources, or time ... that is not on us ... it is on the one who receives. The promise here is to have the heart to trust God that when we sacrifice we depend on Him to make up the resources we've given away. And make up, He does. Next Jesus says, *a good measure -- pressed down, shaken together, and running over -- will be poured into your lap*. This illustration would have immediately resonated with the people of Jesus' day. Grain was pressed down into a measure so that it would hold as much as possible. Then it would be shaken so that every possible space would be filled. And then finally, grain would be poured on top of that ... literally piled on ... that it could not be all contained and would spill over into the fold of a person's robe.

True disciples give. In fact, they give and give and give some more. They have a big heart. They are like this because this is the way Jesus was. [2 Corinthians 8.9](#) says, *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich*. And like Him, his disciples are strongly committed to meeting needs with the heart of love. This is the very heart of what it means to be a disciple.

So, do you have the heart of a giver? Maybe you are in a season of life where you feel you can be as generous as you like, but what plans are you making so when your circumstances change you will be ready to give even more than you do presently? And, don't just think about money ... consider how you can give of your talents, time, and other spiritual and physical resources. When you really take the time to consider just how much God has blessed you, your heart will melt, and your generosity will naturally flow in abundance.

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.
