

## Daily Devotional, June 30, 2020 Giving it All Away

***“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” Acts 20:35 (NIV)***

The words of Christ, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive,*” exposes a major belief regarding our basic philosophy of life. Why are we here? Are we here to be takers, to see how much we can accumulate for our own personal interests, always seeking to take advantage of others for our own gain? Or are we here to be *givers* and live for opportunities to share our blessings with others? Which mindset, or course of action, describes the direction of our lives?

In this verse of Scripture, we are reminded again by the Apostle Paul that a Bible-based line of reasoning undermines the conventional wisdom of the day. The average consequence of our world system might say that a person is more greatly blessed when they are on the receiving end of gifts; however, when we read God’s Word, we realize that the person who is more blessed is the one who is doing the giving. Lasting reward and fulfillment are enjoyed by the one who is learning to be a giver.

Without a doubt, the best example of what we ought to be and how we should live is found in the person of our Lord Jesus, Himself. Giving is a fundamental part of God’s very nature. Just take a look at the creation around you and you will see the generosity of our Creator. Every plant and every tree, the many millions of stars. Every bird in the sky, every fish in the many lakes and seas, every animal that roams the lands, testify to the greatest Giver of all.

The greatest expression of God’s giving is in God’s giving His Son to die for our sins. Jesus exhibited this generous nature when He gave “***His life as a ransom for many***”. ***Matt. 20:28 (NIV)*** Because our human nature tends to be selfish, Jesus often reminds us in Scripture of the need to deny ourselves. The more we try to hold on to our lives, the more we lose. The more we are willing to give our lives away, the more we gain.

The subject of giving most often brings our thoughts to the matter of money, but it has much to do with other segments of our lives, as well. We should in all things *give thanks* to God and to others. We should always *give respect*. We *should* give our tithes and offerings, but we also should *give our time* for the Lord and His cause in the world. Our purpose in life is more than being a depository of God’s blessings; we are to be channels of God’s goodness, using and sharing what God gives us that it might be a blessing to others. As we learn to be faithful givers, we find that we are being blessed all along the way.

Give God what’s right – *not what’s left!*

***Prayer: God of grace, we hear your call to generous giving in the way you meet our needs each day, and in the abundance that you have blessed us with. Having received so much, we offer all we have, not only from our monetary treasures, but in the giving up of our time for others and using our many abilities to serve our neighbors. May kindness and generosity flow from our hearts in serving your people and all of Your creation. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.***

**Point to Ponder Today:** You know the world is upside down when you go to a bank and someone wearing a mask and gloves isn’t tackled by security!