

Back to the Books – Season 2 – **Week 6**  
**Give – for giving is living....** Matthew verses

So the theme is **“Give – for giving is living.”** We will continue with the verse cards that were passed out last week. There are more here if people need them.

We did Matthew 5:16. 3 simple phrases in one sentence... (repeat the verse)...

**16 “Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works and  
give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”**

Next, we covered, Matthew 5:42 **“Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.”** (RSV) That section of Scripture teaches what this world does not... to ‘love your enemy,’ ‘bless them that curse you’.... ‘pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you’..... and we remember that Jesus voluntarily gave his Life for us... so that we might live.

The last verse was from Matthew 6:11, **“Give us this day our daily bread;”** So simple.. yet, so profound that God provides for us to live... now we just need to recognize how. (Story.... ‘How to Live’.... Volume 8 of a 20 volume dictionary set... covering the words from ‘How’ to the word ‘Live’..... not a lot of direction there... but we have great examples in the Bible. )

This week we start with Matthew 7:02... a great verse for either the start of your morning or as a reflection on how your day went... and what could have been done differently or even better. **“For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.”** (We have already learned Matthew 7:7 **“Ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock and it shall be opened to you.”** )

This verse sounds a bit like the ‘golden rule’ which is from Matt 7:12 (NIV) “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” That comes just a few short verses later that where we are in 7:02. The first ½ of the verse is about judgement.. what we pronounce or use, will be used in judging us. I have not been one to try to judge other people... too many variables... too many situations and circumstances which I cannot even begin to understand. And God challenges us not to judge other people... after all that is His job and He does it with perfect knowledge and fairness. It is the second half of the verse which needs our attention this morning. That says that **‘the measure you give will be the measure you get’**. Pastor Sr. and others have reminded us of a ‘mother’s way of defining sharing’.... One child gets to divide the item is 2... the other child get’s first choice. My own illustration on this is patterned after a story and an example Pastor Sr. told in Bible class (the Thursday 6:30am one) maybe 15-20 years ago.. but I still remembered it.... Recently, I was returning to SF to get on the Bay Bridge... Cash Only line up ahead looks open... I drive for

it... I mis-calculated that the road turned and that the long lines I was seeing were for that lane... there was no turning back... the best I could hope for was to signal that I needed to get in that line and hope that there was someone who felt sorry for an 'out-of-town' driver who mis-judged the traffic lines and lanes. The first car to my right waved me to come into that lane... I was shocked.... So as I approached the toll booth, I paid for 2 tolls... mine and the car behind me. (Like the story that Pastor Sr. told about his daughter...good story... great idea). There was lots of traffic merging onto the bridge so I didn't see that car again. I don't know what they thought, or said to each other... but I know for me, and it has been true throughout my life, 'the measure you give will be the measure you get'.... Try it sometime... I am more convinced each day that 'giving is living'.....

Next is Matt 7:11 (so that should be easy to remember each time you pass one... a 7/11 store that is)... **"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"** The words leading up to this talk about a child's request to his or her father.... Ask for bread...he wouldn't give a stone...ask for a fish, he wouldn't give a snake.... So if we can do the basic good things for our children... How much more will God be able (*and He is infinitely able*) to provide to those of us who are willing to ask... for we KNOW that He is a giving God. There was a story in the book, **Beyond Jabez**, in which the author, Bruce Wilkinson , talked about people and places he has been since authoring the short book on the **Prayer of Jabez** (1 Chronicles 4:9 – 10). In one story, it was the planning for a huge outreach program to Africa... sending people to help plant local and family gardens as a way to reduce hunger and to help people provide more for themselves and their families. They had so many volunteers and people wanting to participate that they could not get enough seats on airlines to get everyone there to fulfill this mission project. Bruce had suggested that they need to pray for a 747 Jumbo Jet to be donated for use to that mission project... to many people, it seemed impossible... like that was just way too much to ask of God. It wasn't. They had a sponsor very quickly. People were amazed... that is the kind of giving God we have... one who listens and responds... most often, even before we know to ask.

Finally, Matthew 10:08 which is part of Jesus commissioning his disciples for their first mission trip...our focus in on the 'give' portion of this verse but the whole verse applies... maybe more than we know.... **"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."** We can understand the part about... "heal the sick". We have seen what that looks like...but the others..."raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons".... That seems to be way beyond our imaginations, let alone our comfort zones. And each of us is equipped in different ways with different skills. God created them and He will use them, to His glory and for His needs, IF we will just be available to His calling. And the focus sentence in the verse is **"You have received without paying, give without pay"**. (And he is not talking about pastors or full time church workers)... but about you and me. As I said last week,

a problem... maybe even THE problem with the Gospel message for many people is that it is FREE. Eternal Life is a free gift from God through Jesus Christ His Son.... It's really a pretty simple message.... BUT love, forgiveness, grace, and mercy from a giving God... that seems just too hard for many people to comprehend... it sounds too good to be true. But because it is God's plan, it is the only thing that we know and can trust to be true. Six 'giving' verses so far... 3 more next week... and hundreds more for you to look-up and read and remember as you continue to find your hope, your joy, and your direction in God's word, the Bible. **Take time for God's Word** this week in your life and every week from now until.....forever.

Thank you.

END

Time	Book	Verse
5:16	Matthew	Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (RSV)
5:42	Matthew	Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you. (RSV)
6:11	Matthew	Give us this day our daily bread; (RSV)
7:02	Matthew	For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.
7:11	Matthew	If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!
10:08	Matthew	Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay.
10:42	Matthew	And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.
13:12	Matthew	For to him who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.
16:19	Matthew	I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Prior Memory Verse

7:07	Matthew	Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you will find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.
11:28	Matthew	Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.