



Servant's Corner

December 2012

A Test Of Faith

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

It is more blessed to give than to receive Acts 20:35b

As we enter Christmastime—"the season of giving"—we would do well to meditate on this truth claim of Jesus. Do we really believe that it is **more** blessed to give than to receive? To be honest I have to admit that my attitude tends to be "it is OK to give, but it is GREAT to receive". Why my aversion to giving and my preference for receiving? Because I tend to think that giving—whether it be time, money, effort, whatever—diminishes my resources whereas receiving replenishes them.

According to the Bible, here's the flaw in the way I tend to think. It's that little word "**my**". The truth is that I don't have any resources. I'm just a steward of the time, money, abilities, etc. that God has entrusted to me. They belong to Him. He is the owner. One reason giving is more blessed than receiving is because doing so reminds us of this truth.

From the perspective of a steward—someone who manages the resources of another person—giving and receiving ought to be equal. Does a laborer on a loading dock care if he hauls goods **in** or **out of** a warehouse? They aren't **his** goods. If the resources aren't mine, why should I have a preference over giving them away versus receiving them? I believe the answer lies in the character of God. God is a giver. That is an essential part of His nature. We see it on display at Christmas when God gave His Son (John 3:16). When we give away that which God has entrusted to us, we imitate this characteristic of our generous God.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. It's hard to imagine anything more counter-intuitive than that. Could it be that the only way we will know if this statement from Jesus is true is by testing it out in our own experience?



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