

4) Develop a **Grateful** heart.

Deuteronomy 15:15

“You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt. And the Lord your God Redeemed you; therefore I command you this day.”

Key: God says

“I am commanding **my people** to be **Generous** ... WHY? ...

Remember you were **slaves**.

Key: Gratitude produces generosity.

Conclusion:

God want you to live “A Blessed Life” so that you can be a **Blessing.**

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II Corinthians 9:6 - 7 “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Stories to Consider

“Heavenly Mansion”

There is a story about person who died and went to heaven. When he arrived he was told he would be taken to his home. They passed by many beautiful mansions. Finally, on the very outskirts of heaven he was shown a very small, rundown house and was told it was his. He complained and protested, but was told, “We’re sorry, but this is all we could do for you with the materials you sent up.”

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“Christmas Shopping”

A wealthy man went Christmas shopping for his wife. He was looking around the ladies perfume area of a store when a sales clerk asked if she could help. He replied that he was looking for something for his wife for Christmas, so the clerk brought him a bottle of perfume. He asked how much is it? She said \$50. He told that was too much could she find something cheaper, so returned with a smaller bottle of perfume, he again asked how much, she replied \$30. He again said that was too much. Next she brought a very small bottle for \$15. This time he was getting frustrated and told her he wanted to see something really cheap. The clerk returned and gave him something and said “If you want to see something really cheap look at this.” She handed him a mirror.

First Church of God

February 10, 2013

Sermon Outline

Pastor, Robert White

Series “The Blessed Life”

Message Title: “First Things First: It’s a Matter of the Heart”

Matthew 7: 1 – 2

Luke 6: 37 – 38

Introduction:

“The Blessed Life” will transform your life for the better, bringing you guaranteed financial results; but it will do more than that. It will change every area of your life; marriage, family, health and relationships. For when God changes your heart from selfishness to generosity, every part of your life-journey is affected. -- Robert Morris

Matthew 7: 1 – 2 (RSV)

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment your pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.”

The subject in verses 1 – 2 = **judgment.**

Questions:

- 1) Is there anything in these two verses about money? **No**
- 2) Is the word **money** in verses 1 – 2? **No**

Luke 6: 37 – 38 (NKJV)

“**Judge** not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. **Give** and “**it**” will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, “it” will be measured back to you.”

Key: Whatever you give you’re going to get back **more in God’s Economy!**

According to Luke 6:38:

If you Give

Judgment you’ll get back same measure.

Condemnation you’ll get back same measure.

Forgiveness you’ll get back same measure.

Finances you’ll get back same measure.

“Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put in your lap.”

Key: Whatever “**it**” represents in Luke 6: 38 you will **get back!**

Key: Luke 6: 38 is not to be taught as the **motivation** forgiving but the **reward** of forgiving.

God **implemented** giving for **us** not for Him, to build the “Kingdom.”

Key: God blesses giving from the **heart.**

Deuteronomy 15: 7 – 8

“If there is among you a **poor man**, one of your brethren, in any of your towns within your land which the Lord you God gives you, you **shall not harden your heart** or **shut your hand against your poor brother**, but you shall open your hand to him, and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.”

Key: God says to help the poor and it will change their **hearts.**

Four Things To Do ... To Live the Blessed Life”

- 1) Deal with a **selfish** heart.

Deuteronomy 15: 9 Beware lest there be a **wicked thought** in your heart ... and your eye of evil against your poor brother and give him nothing.”

Key: God called **selfishness wickedness.**

- 2) Deal with a **grieving** heart.

Deuteronomy 15: 10 (NKJV)

“You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be **grieved** when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your land.”

Key: Selfishness attacks **before we give; Grief attacks **after** we give.**

- 3) Develop a **Generous** heart.

Deuteronomy 15: 14 (NKJV)

“You shall supply him **liberally** from your flock, from **your** threshing floor, and from **your** winepress (for what the **Lord has blessed you with, you shall give to him.**”

Liberal = Generosity.

Matthew 6: 21 Jesus said, “For where **your “treasure”** is, there **your heart will be** also.”

Key: If you want your heart to be in the “kingdom” ... put your **treasure there.**