

Back to the Books – Season 2 – **Week 7**  
**Give – for giving is living....** Matthew verses

This is the last week of our series on the theme... **“Give – for giving is living.”** We will continue with the verse cards and I brought some extras as some of you have been passing them on to your friends... and I just want to say, “WELL DONE”... thanks for caring about them and for introducing them to this memory technique to help bring God's word closer to their hearts and minds and lives each day. Keep it up!

We did Matthew 7:02....

**“For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.”** Our emphasis for our lives was the portion that says, **‘the measure you give will be the measure you get’.** Are you giving ‘full measure, pressed down and overflowing’... as that is the way God describes his giving to us... abundant and overflowing.

(And, in case you missed it, we have already learned Matt 7:7 **“Ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock and it shall be opened to you.”**)

Next was Matt 7:11 (did you think of this verse when you passed the “7/11 store”.. work on that one next week) **“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!”** How much more will God be able (*and He is infinitely able*) to provide to those of us who are willing to ask... What did you ask for this week from God??? Or were you too busy worrying to think about asking.

Then it was Matthew 10:08... **“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay.”** And with the focus sentence in the verse as **“You have received without paying, give without pay’.** Were you giving (and forgiving) as freely as He has given to you... where did you hold back... why? Was it because it was the ‘last item you had’ and didn't know if there would be more?... or maybe it was because you weren't sure if the other person really needed it, as much as you did. Again, we all need to practice this form of giving in and through our lives.

The last 3 verses start with, Matthew 10:42 **“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.”** When I think of giving, whether it is for Birthday's or Christmas, I usually start out with what ‘big’ thing do I think they want. I want it to be noticeable and in proportion to how much I care about that person. God's idea of giving is much bigger and broader... not in the size of the gifts, but in the size of the heart of the giver. In Jesus day, just like today, the Bible truth is still there... “the poor will always be among you”. He tells us that it is in the little things that people will see His hand of Love and Mercy the most... that ‘cup of cold water’ to one of these little ones. We get lots of Christmas catalogs sent to our

home this time of year... I don't know where they get our names, but they do. They all get thrown away except for one. I look forward to getting it each year even though I know most of the gifts in it by memory. It is a catalog from World Vision, a Christian outreach to some the poorest children in the world. And each year when my family asks what I want for Christmas, my answers are about the same... **a goat, a dozen chickens, a couple of rabbits, some gardening tools and seeds, and maybe a couple of blankets.** I will likely never meet the people who get those gifts each Christmas, at least in this life, and that's OK with me. I would much rather have them see these as gifts from God which happened to be routed through me than to see my small part in it at all. The gift of Christ is all the Christmas present (and future) that I will ever need. Where are you planning to give that 'cup of cold water' today... this week... or through the remainder of the year? Wherever and whenever you choose it, that gift will be welcomed by those in need and respected by God.

Next it is Matthew 13:12, **"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."** In our society, we think in terms of the 'haves' and the 'have nots'... we like to stratify our incomes, homes, schools, lifestyles beyond the lower, middle and upper to the 'in between' levels... like 'upper-middle' or 'lower-upper'. We think in terms of money, possessions, and 'stuff'. When God talks about abundance, it is about love, joy, peace, patience, humility, and all of the emotions which make a person truly feel like they have it ALL. We read about wealthy sports figures, movie stars, and business moguls who spend lavishly but can't seem to find any meaning or satisfaction in the things they acquire. I may have used this song before as a comparison to how we live and how God asks us to live. I heard it more than 40 years ago in college and it stuck with me. It's called the **Blond Christian Song** and the words go like this:

*"I haven't got a 40 foot yacht, I haven't got a lot of fame; but what I've got is more than naught, for I name Him the 'name of Names'.*

*"Some people will tell you that if you are a Christian, you really don't know all the fun that you are missin', don't bite on their bait, let me set you straight, Christian's have more fun than Blonds (unless you are a Blond Christian).*

*"Human nature has a tendency to take a little puff, of pride and to say, 'I've got more than enough', of the gray matter's wrinkle and green-backs crinkle, but that just don't set right with God."*

*"Well, all I have or will be, was given me by Him, who gave for me His life, and he hung it on a limb, so cut out the strife, and enter new life, so abundant it sloshes the brim."*

Our last verse in this series is Matthew 16:19, **"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."** In this last verse, the emphasis is on what God is ready to give to you, now, this day, here on earth.... **'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'.** We've read about the 'pearly gates' and



'streets of gold' in references to heaven. So, the keys to that place seem pretty big and pretty important. But I am not sure they are the kind of keys that lock doors or gates... but rather the keys that open minds, and hearts, and lives to see Jesus Christ... even through you and even through me. What we bind on earth, what we give our life's effort and mission for will be bound for heaven. I have mentioned before about visiting my grandfather in Arizona when I was a young child. Sitting a bit cramped, with 8 people around a table for 4, as we would finish a meal and would end with a song or favorite hymn of my grandparents. Some I didn't know at first but I learned them through the years and have not forgotten them since. The one that relates to this verse, at least to me is, *"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love, the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."* Yes, heaven is closer than you may think. We get to see small glimpses of it here and now. We actually get to bring it to others in various forms of our giving.... A cup of cold water.... Abundant giving freely and without restraint.... And in the fellowship of believers... friends today and our 'forever' friends in God's plans for us.

So, tuck this card away. Look at it when you can't quite remember the verse but pick just one of the verses on 'giving' and make it your own... one that you repeat often and that you can use to remind you that we need to **Give – for giving is living..** in God's plans for your life each day as you **Take Time for God's Word.**

**Thank you.**

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.
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Prior Memory Verse

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

**END**