

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

