

## The Offering Scripture...?

*"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*

Luke 6:38 (KJV)

Sometimes a spirit of challenge grips my heart and what I share is designed to make people think. I don't have a theological axe to grind either. However, so many times we simply glide over various uses of Scripture without thinking comprehensively what is being said **or** unsaid. My purpose is not to accuse people of intentionally using the Scripture incorrectly, but to give some thought to being more diligent in how we do.

Context is the operative word in order to properly understanding what is being drawn from the wealth of the Scriptures. This Scripture is one such example which is often used at offering-time in church services: **Luke 6:38**, "...give and it shall be given unto you...." Usually we are attempting to motivate people to give with an expectancy of receiving, e.g. sowing and reaping.

The fact is, in this chapter, Jesus lists **nine** things we are to give, "**without**" expecting anything back in return. The promise is, a return will happen but that is God's concern and shouldn't be ours.

Note the following from **Luke 6:27-31**:

1. Give love to your enemies and benevolence to them.
2. Give blessings to and prayers for, those who curse and spitefully use you.
3. Give your cheek to the one who has struck your other one.
4. Give your coat (in addition to your cloak) to the one demanding possession of your cloak only.
5. Give to every man who asks you of your goods, "*don't ask for them back*".
6. Give benevolence to every man as you would like to receive from every man.

In verses 32-34, Jesus asks some poignant and penetrating questions that cut to the very core of our hearts as it relates to Covenant peoples' giving. "*Why, when you give, do you expect to receive something back? Sinners think this way, why should you? What's the difference between you Covenant people and them?*"

Implicit in these questions is, there should be a difference between the believer and unbeliever regarding our resources.

Note the following from verses 35-38:

7. Give love, goodness, and resources, expecting nothing back in return.
8. Give justice, without prejudice, without condemnation, with forgiveness.
9. Give "\_\_\_\_\_ " and God will bring a return on your giving according to "His" measure, and not yours.

So, Luke 6:38 includes the totality of giving from our lives at all times, not just from our pocketbooks at offering time. I might add here, Jesus uses the word "**huios**" for "*children of the Highest*" (verse 35) which is defined as a mature child that manifests adult qualities as one who practices and excels in the demonstration of these character qualities.