

# The Boomerang Effect

Tim Dubberly, September 19, 2004

Text: Luke 6:38

## Introduction:

Have you ever heard the old saying “what goes around comes around?” That in its essence is ‘The Boomerang Effect’. What you sow you will reap, what you plant you will grow, you will get out of something what you have put into it! The same is true about giving; it is the determined action of the believer to share something that they have.

Luke records a verse of scripture that is probably more widely used, especially in offerings, than any other scripture with its content. He deals with the giving and the receiving, which is directed by God.

Have you ever felt like everybody just wants something from you? Or maybe you have felt like you have given until there is no more. This was never the design of God. Giving is supposed to be a joyous and blessed event in our lives each day. It was never supposed to be drudgery.

■ It had been a hard winter in the Appalachian area. The snow had piled up deeper and deeper, the mercury dropped, rivers froze, people suffered. The Red Cross used helicopters to fly in supplies. One crew had been working day after day--long hours. They were on their way home late in the afternoon when they saw a little cabin submerged in the snow. There was a thin whisper of smoke coming from the chimney. The rescue team figured they were probably about out of food, fuel, perhaps medicine. Because of the trees they had to put the helicopter down a mile away. They put on heavy packs with emergency supplies, trudged through heavy snow, waist deep, reached the cabin exhausted, panting, perspiring. They pounded on the door. A thin, gaunt mountain woman opened the door and the lead man gasped, "We're from the Red Cross." She was silent for a moment and then she said, "It's been a hard winter, Sonny, I just don't think we can give anything this year.

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) pp. 237-238.

## Like one writer said:

■ If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.

Bob Hope

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 240.

Here are a few “areas” in our life where giving is crucial!

I. We must give of our time (38a).

A. Time is the most valuable commodity we have.

- Time is valuable because there is only so much of it.
- We are forced to section out our time each day while realizing there are things we just cannot get too.
- All of us have said something like “there needs to be two of me!”

B. Time is the thing we seem to have the least to spare.

- First there is our job each day regardless of what it is it is time consuming.
- Then there are other obligations like church, shopping, kids events, hobbies, and the list goes on.

C. Our time is probably the most impacting thing we have to give.

- Nevertheless, when you give someone your time and attention you are giving the greatest gift you have.
- The main problem with children today is the lack of time spent by parents for one-on-one conversations.
- Anybody can give money, but the giving of yourself, to someone, cannot be measured in worth.

Each of us are givers, but the question is, what kind of giver?

■ There are three kinds of givers--the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb. To get anything out of a flint you must hammer it. And then you get only chips and sparks. To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it, and the more you use pressure, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. Which kind of giver are you?

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 237.

## II. We must also be a giver of our talents (38b).

### A. All of us are gifted in some area.

- In this church today there are many areas of giftedness.
- We have those who are able to build and repair, those who are talented with administration and teaching, those who are gifted in wisdom and understanding of other areas.
- The fact is each of us has something to offer.

■ Billy Graham was speaking in the San Jose area, and on the closing day told this story. It seems there was a strong man who traveled with a circus. One of his most impressive stunts was to take an orange and squeeze every last drop of juice out of it. Then he would offer one thousand dollars to anyone who could manage to squeeze as much as one additional drop from it. He went from town to town making his offer, but no one was able to win the one thousand dollars from him. Then one day he came to a small town in California and made his demonstration of juice-squeezing prowess and his challenge. A small, wizened, ninety-eight pound weakling type man came forward and said he'd like to take a try at the challenge. He took the crushed orange and proceeded to squeeze six more drops of juice from it. The strong man was amazed. He could hardly believe his eyes. He asked how he was possibly able to do this. The man shrugged and said, "Oh, I'm the treasurer down at the Baptist church and we do this all the time."

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 371.

### B. We will hire it out but not give it out.

- The proof needed has only to call a workday.
- The excuses will range from "I do that all the time and I am certainly not going to do it on my day off" too "I have just got to relax because I have worked to so hard."
- The truth is I do not want to help anyone for nothing, pay me and I will show up, for I pay my tithes and give in the offerings and let the church find someone who does not work as hard as me.

- C. What kind of impact could we make if we gave.
- We would change the atmosphere of our church, while we were being changed.
  - We would create a name that the bible calls 'good name'.
  - No one else can give what God has uniquely designed you to give.

Some give time and talent however their motives are not pure!

■ Sometimes our generosity comes from mixed motives. It seems that some vandals had cut down six royal palms along Miami's Flagler Street. Since the palms were very expensive, Dade County authorities weren't sure if they could replace them very soon. But then someone donated six more and even had them planted. The old ones had been about fifteen feet tall and provided a nice foreground for a "Fly Delta" billboard. The new palms are thirty-five feet tall--completely hiding the sign. The new donor: Eastern Airlines.

James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) pp. 235-236.

### III. Then there is our temporal means (38c).

- A. Everyone has an involvement in financial giving.
- None more than the pastor is aware of giving and receiving.

■ A man called at the church and asked if he could speak to the Head Hog at the Trough. The secretary said, "Who?"

The man replied, "I want to speak to the Head Hog at the Trough!"

Sure now that she had heard correctly, the secretary said, "Sir, if you mean our pastor, you will have to treat him with more respect--and ask for 'The Reverend' or 'The Pastor.' But certainly you cannot refer to him as the Head Hog at the Trough!"

At this, the man came back, "Oh, I see. Well, I have ten thousand dollars I was thinking about donating to the Building Fund."

Secretary: "Hold the line--I think the Big Pig just walked in the door."

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 463.

B. Generosity should be at the heart of all that we do.

- We teach our children to share, but is that the attitude we practice.

■ A woman was out shopping one day and decided to stop for a cup of coffee. She bought a bag of cookies, put them into her purse, and then entered a coffee shop. All the tables were filled, except for one at which a man sat reading a newspaper. Seating herself in the opposite chair, she opened her purse, took out a magazine, and began reading.

After a while, she looked up and reached for a cookie, only to see the man across from her also taking a cookie. She glared at him; he just smiled at her, and she resumed her reading.

Moments later she reached for another cookie, just as the man also took one. Now feeling quite angry, she stared at the one remaining cookie-- whereupon the man reached over, broke the cookie in half and offered her a piece. She grabbed it and stuffed it into her mouth as the man smiled at her again, rose, and left.

The woman was really steaming as she angrily opened her purse, her coffee break now ruined, and put her magazine away. And there was her bag of cookies, unopened. All along she'd unknowingly been helping herself to the cookies belonging to the man she had shared the table with.

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) pp. 238-239.

C. Giving is a heart thing.

- With the same measure as you mete it shall be measured unto you.

■ There's the story of the careless Scot who tossed a crown into the collection plate thinking it was a penny. When he saw his mistake he asked to have it back. The deacon refused, and then the Scot grunted, "Aweel, aweel, I'll get credit for it in heaven." The deacon responded "Na, na, ye'll get credit for the penny."

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988), p. 385.

## Conclusion:

Luke's conclusion of this text is simple. Give and it shall be given, withhold and it shall be withheld from you.

Each of us must measure ourselves today as to why we give. Is it because we love God and long for His touch upon our lives or is there a giving to receive ulterior motive behind our giving. We should give expecting nothing even though we know God is going to cause us to be blessed.

## Do we have the right mindset?

■ A college friend of mine named Paul received a new automobile from his brother as a pre-Christmas present. On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it. "Is this your car, mister?" he asked.

Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The boy looked astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you nothing? Boy, I wish--"

He hesitated, and Paul knew what he was going to wish. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels, "I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that."

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, then impulsively asked, "Would you like to ride in my automobile?"

"Oh, yes! I'd love that!"

After a short ride the urchin turned, and with his eyes aglow said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?"

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride in a big automobile.

But Paul was wrong again.

"Will you stop right where those two steps are?" the boy asked.

He ran up the steps. Then, in a little while, Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast.

He was carrying his little polio-crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him and pointed to the car.

"There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas, and it didn't cost him a cent. And someday I'm gonna give you one just like it. Then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the little lad to the front seat of his car. The shining-eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride.

That Christmas Eve Paul learned what Jesus meant when He said, "There is more happiness in giving."

C. Roy Angell

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 235.

These “areas” in our life must be examined and adjusted to align with God’s word and His will. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you is a boomerang statement.

My Challenge to you is to come to the altar today and pray about these areas in your life. Do you give of your time, your talent, and your temporal means?