

The Word in Meditation

A TOPIC OF TITHING 4

Bless the Lord oh, my soul, and God bless you too, my friends. Welcome to the Word in Meditation!

Father, we praise you for your freedom in Jesus Christ. Teach us now we pray, in Jesus Name. Amen.

Jesus said in Luke 6:38, "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 you mete withal it shall be measure to you again."

This scripture is *not*, as some suppose, dealing with the giving of money. I used to think it did, but it does not.

Scripture must be read in the context in which it is laced. In this scripture, Jesus is giving the sermon on the mount.

A careful study of this verse will point out several things:

Jesus is talking about judging and forgiveness and condemnation. That if you do not judge, you'll not be judged, verse 37. The judgment of people within the church upon other people cannot be overlooked. If a person chooses not to attend church on a particular Sunday, down the noses go the looks of several people who wonder at the 'apparent' spiritual decline of the person or persons in question.

In the financial giving area, I have been in on times where the money was counted after the service, and there would be a sizeable check in the offering plate from a certain someone, and the news would travel around the staff faster than electricity through a wire. Believe it or not, respect would be shown to that person if he or she came to the church again. Do you see the judgment?

Jesus was saying if you forgive, you'll be forgiven and a good measure of it to a whole bunch. Men will give it to you. Now, up to this point, the scripture could be thought of as carrying the idea of money; but the next line, which says, "For with the same measure that you mete withal, it shall be measure to you again, clears it up.

If you take a measure of wheat, for example, and plant it, it will bring a harvest in an amount greater than what was planted. The scripture says you'll get back the same measure. Now, that cannot happen unless you had a crop failure.

I used to use this scripture as a basis for giving thinking if I planted my money a ministry, men would give me back more than I had planted. But since this scripture deals with things other than money, it didn't work. Do you see what I mean? Read it. Don't spiritualize it. Print is print. It says what it means and means what it says.

Where, then, does it apply? Tune in tomorrow and we'll see! See you tomorrow.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.