

40 Days of Prayer & Devotion to Easter

Day 33

Our devotional for today comes from Acts 20:35, where Paul states, "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

This statement is found in some of Paul's final words to the church in Ephesus as he is about to return to Jerusalem, likely to never see these friends again. We find this to be a very heartfelt good-bye, full of embracing and tears, as Paul had spent the past 7-8 years in the Aegean region spreading the Gospel, discipling these people, building friendships and planting churches, all with the purpose of making Christ known amongst the lost. Paul poured out his life to bless these people, so that they may know the truth and hope of the good news that is in Jesus Christ.

Paul sums up his entire 7-8 year time with this very important principle, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." See, Paul here is saying that he served the church with this principle in mind, demonstrating what it means to serve others for the sake of spreading the glorious, good news of the Gospel, and he is saying that the example he set, he learned from following Jesus, who is the perfect example of the One who gave it all with no expectation of receiving anything in return.

Jesus is the perfect example of this principle because He left the glory of heaven to come down in the form of a servant to give life to dead and broken sinners like you and me. We could not give Him anything that He didn't already have, but it was purely out of His love and pleasure that He came to give us life. This is the ultimate example of the blessed redeemer who sought to give rather than receive.

So, this Easter season I want you to ask yourself, "Who in my life can I serve," and "How can I serve this person in such a way as to show the hope of Christ with them?" Maybe it is a neighbor, a co-worker, a friend, or even a family member.

Think about this principle this easter Season, that Jesus has passed to Paul who eventually passed it down to us, that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and think, "Who can I give this hope to?"

– Pastoral Intern Tanner Baumgart

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– Acts 20:35

