

Bountiful living through Bountiful Giving – Youth

Lesson for Sunday, January 11, 2026

TEXT: Acts 20:33-37

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ What are some things that people often say that are in the Bible but are not actually in the Bible? *Cleanliness is next to Godliness, God helps those who help themselves, God won't give you more than you can handle...*
- ⇒ Today we are going to read about a saying of Jesus, but it is not recorded in the Gospels which are the accounts of His life. Paul tells us one more thing that Jesus said in Acts 20:35 (read the last part of the verse).
- ⇒ Today we are kicking off our annual stewardship emphasis. Our theme this year is *Bountiful Living through Bountiful Giving*, and it comes from this text. This was Paul's adopted philosophy of life.
- ⇒ It's a philosophy that is easy to remember and easy to understand but it flies in the face of our culture and our own selfish natures.
- ⇒ The key to bountiful living (who doesn't want that) is to become a bountiful giver.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Bountiful Giving leads to Bountiful Living because of the **bonds** that it breaks.
 - a. We all born selfish. One of the first words you probably learned was, "Mine!" Selfishness is a problem that you will have to fight for your entire life. We fight it most effectively by becoming a giver.
 - b. First of all, giving frees you from **covetousness** (vs. 33).
 - i. Read vs. 33. Why could Paul say that? Because he believed Jesus when Jesus said it is more blessed to give than receive.
 - ii. Covetousness is a very serious sin! It is defined as wanting what others have. It is more than just wanting one for yourself. Covetousness says, "I want it, and I don't want you to have it!"
 - iii. Paul is saying, "I don't get bent out of shape if you have more than I have. Doesn't bother me if you live in a nicer house, drive a better car and have more in the bank and have accumulated more followers on IG. I don't worry about that because I have learned it is more blessed to give than to receive."
 - c. Second, it will free you from **idleness** (vs. 34).
 - i. Read vs. 34. Paul wasn't afraid to work. He worked hard. If it's more blessed to give than to receive, you have to have something to give, and in order to have something to give, you have to work.
 - ii. God never intended that you be idle. We are supposed to work.
 - iii. Look up Ephesians 4:28. What is Paul's point? God expects us to work! Notice why – "That he may have more to satiate his lust with?" No! "That he may have to give to him that needs."
 - iv. If you are going to become a giver, you have to become a worker, so you have something to give.
 - d. Third, it will free you from **selfishness** (35a).
 - i. Paul labored to help support those in need. He was focused on others.
 - ii. Happiness and selfishness never exist in the same person. And that word "blessed" literally means it is "more happy" to give than receive.
 - iii. Question: Do you believe that? Challenge them to think before they answer.
2. Bountiful Giving leads to Bountiful Living because of the **blessings** that it brings (vs. 35b).
 - a. Here's the main point of what Jesus was saying: You can't bless others without being blessed.

- b. Has there been a time when you did something kind for someone? How did it make you feel?
 - c. Here's the kicker: When you give you generate a double blessing! You are blessed and the person you give to will be blessed! The Lord says it is *more blessed* to give than to receive. That means it's blessed to receive.
 - d. Most people think, "Yep, if I had something to give, I would." You do have something to give! You don't have to be rich, and you don't have to be talented to be a giver.
 - i. Discuss: What do you have to give that isn't money?
 - ii. Answers: Time, attention, a listening ear, prayer, help, etc. The key is not the amount you have to give; it's the desire you have to give.
 - e. Think about those in the Bible that God has used that we would say didn't have much to give.
 - i. Little boy – a few loaves and fishes. He gave it and Jesus fed five thousand with it.
 - ii. Mary – all she had was her alabaster box of perfume. She broke it at Jesus' feet, she gave it. Was she blest? Wherever the gospel is preached this is spoken of as a memorial to her!
 - iii. A widow – Jesus was watching when she was going throughout the treasury. She put in her widow's mite. What we would say two pennies today. Was she blest?
3. Bountiful Giving leads to Bountiful Living because of the **bridges** that it builds (vs. 36-37).
- a. They loved him. There was a bond of fellowship. They were one in the bond of love. When we live by bountiful giving relationships are strengthened.
 - b. Teacher: Do you have an illustration of when someone was giving to you? Share how that changed your attitude toward that person.
 - c. Again, it's important to point out that our giving includes more than our money.
 - d. We are surrounded by people who need evangelizing. We must be liberal in giving the Gospel.
 - e. We are surrounded by people in need. We must minister in Jesus's name.
 - f. There are people that are so hungry for somebody to care. Somebody to love. Somebody who will give understanding. There are people who need someone to listen. People who are lonely.
 - g. Open up your life. Begin to give to other people and you will build bridges where you are going to find out that people truly will love you back. (PS: The most miserable people you know are the takers.)

CONCLUSION:

- ⇒ Discuss: Can you think of a need in someone's life that you are aware of? How can you give to that person this coming week?
 - They may be able to actually meet a need. Or they may only be able to see that person and pray with them about their need?
- ⇒ How would you describe yourself? Are you a giver or a taker? (How would your friends and family describe you?)
 - How can you be more of a giver in your home this week?
 - How can you be more of a giver at school this week?
 - How can you give to your friends more this coming week?
 - Get specific!