

**It's more blessed to give
than to receive**

Acts 20: 25-38

Thanksgiving

- Giving thanks
 - saying “Thank you” through words & actions
 - being grateful

- WHEN do we give thanks?
 - I / We give thanks when ...

- WHOM do we give thanks to ?

- HOW do we give thanks?
 - How do we express our gratitude ?

- WHY do we give thanks?
 - Why be grateful ?

The “science” of gratitude

How Gratitude Can Help You Through Hard Times

--by Robert Emmons, syndicated from Greater Good, Sept. 12, 2013

<http://www.dailygood.org/story/532/how-gratitude-can-help-you-through-hard-times/>

WHAT GOOD IS GRATITUDE?

REASONS WHY IT'S BETTER TO LIVE GRATEFULLY

CHARITY



GRATEFUL PEOPLE ON AVERAGE GIVE 20% MORE  

PSYCHOLOGICAL

GRATITUDE IS RELATED TO AGE: FOR EVERY 10 YEARS, GRATITUDE INCREASES BY 5%



COMMUNITY



GRATEFUL PEOPLE WILL HAVE A STRONGER BOND WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

HEALTH



GRATEFUL PEOPLE WILL: HAVE 10% FEWER STRESS RELATED ILLNESSES BE MORE PHYSICALLY FIT HAVE BLOOD PRESSURE THAT IS LOWER BY 12%

WORK

HAPPY PEOPLE'S INCOME IS ROUGHLY 7% HIGHER  

FRIENDS

MORE SATISFYING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS, AND WILL BE BETTER LIKED



YOUTH



13% FEWER FIGHTS

20% MORE LIKELY TO GET A GRADES

GRATEFUL TEENS ARE 10X LESS LIKELY TO START SMOKING 

WHERE?



THE MOST GRATEFUL COUNTRIES ARE: S. AFRICA, UAE, PHILIPPINES & INDIA

LEAST: NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, HUNGARY, CZECH REPUBLIC & UK

LIFE



OVERALL POSITIVE EMOTIONS CAN ADD UP TO 7 YEARS TO YOUR LIFE

Gratitude is ...

- readiness to show appreciation for kindness
- readiness to return kindness

GRATITUDE



GENEROSITY

Gratitude & being thankful

- a perspective on life; an attitude
- a matter of the heart

“It is more blessed to give than to receive”

- Well-known saying of our Lord Jesus
- Not found in 4 gospels
- ... but very true to the spirit of Christ
- Simple, yet paradoxical
- Simple, yet profound
- Simple, yet comprehensive

Context of quotation

- Paul's farewell message to Ephesian Elders

“Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.” (Acts 20: 25)

When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship. (Acts 20: 36-38)

Paul's relationship with them

- Be shepherds of the church of God ... I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ... So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. (Eph. 20: 28, 29, 31)

- “I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.
- “I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me.
- And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”**

(Eph. 20: 32-35, NLT)

Paul's final words to them

- I commit you to God and the word of grace (gospel)
- “It's more blessed to give than to receive”
- Commit your life to God and to the gospel of grace
- Read, study, understand and apply the gospel to your life
- Follow my example by living a radically generous life
- Live out the gospel of grace = practice radical generosity

A matter of the heart

“I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me.

And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

(Acts 20: 33-35 NLT)

Watch out for “covetousness”

“I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes. You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me.

And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

(Acts 20: 33-35 NLT)

Covetousness = Greed

Then [Jesus] said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12: 15; NIV)

And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
(Luke 12: 15; ESV)

Why watch out for greed?

- Greed lies to us and deceives us

Greed ...

- tells us what matters most in life is how much stuff we have
- blinds us to what's really important in life
- blinds us to spiritual realities

- Is that why we notice greed so easily in others but rarely in ourselves?

Jesus and Paul warned us against greed

- “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12: 15)
- Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. (Col. 3: 5; cf. Eph. 5:5)

These are heart issues

- “Where” and “how” we spend our money reveal our idol(s)
- From “where” do I get my self-worth, self-esteem and identity?

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12: 34)

“Wherever your heart is, there your treasure flows most effortlessly.” - Timothy Keller

For what/whom is spending money
very easy for you ?

- That “thing” or person could be your idol

Do we understand God's grace ?

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8: 9)

- What made our Lord Jesus leave heaven to come to earth as a human being?

Since I am God's treasure ...

- My identity is found in Christ
- My worth comes from belonging to Christ
- My security is in Christ
- The approval I seek is Christ's approval
- I don't need money to achieve all of that
- Money is now just money ...
- to be used and enjoyed
- to be used for God's purpose and glory
- I can be grateful and generous



Grace

Generosity

Gratitude

- What have we learned ?
- How will that affect us in terms of being grateful and generous ?
- May this be an enjoyable Thanksgiving!