



# The essence of giving

May 13, 2019

**ACTS 20:35 NKJV - (35)** I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

**ACTS 2:44-45 NKJV - (44)** Now, all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **(45)** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

One of the most unbelieving beatitudes in the Bible is in **(Acts 20:35)**. The giver is happier than the getter? Surely some mistake? That goes against all our intuitions and instincts. Just this past weekend, the post office participated in their yearly food drive, collecting food for a company that provides for those who are hungry. The customer places a bag of food or some content in or at the mailbox and we the (postal carriers) would collect it and take the bag back to the post office to be collected by a company known as second harvest. I deliver to approximately seven hundred mailboxes a day. If every customer placed at least one item in their mailbox to be collected, consider how many people are being serviced. Do the math. Look how many people there are and how many postal carriers there are. But everyone must do their part.

Now that leads me to the scriptures above. Why is it that we can't or why is this not happening? The scripture **(Acts 2:44)** says that they were all ***unified*** for this purpose. What purpose? God's purpose! The attention was towards those in need. By people selling their possessions and giving, nobody was without. By the way, **Acts 2:44-45** is talking about the church.

When I talk about the essence of giving, I'm talking about the spirit and attitude you have about the matter. People are in need, what are you willing to sacrifice? Are you willing to give your best **(Genesis 4:3-5)** or would you be like the priest in Malachi, who were giving the worst?

We have been called to look out for one another. That's love. Don't wait for a yearly program to take place, help someone now! Come from behind the four walls (if not already) and let's show the people who we are, the church. Let's serve.

## SCRIPTURE READING

**LEVITICUS 25:35-37**

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

No one has ever become poor by giving.