

The Grace Of Giving.

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In the kingdom of God everything is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), and according to 2 Corinthians 8:7 we can see that *giving* is also a grace that needs to be exercised by faith in God's Word.

The bible tells us about an occasion in the ministry of Jesus when there was a great material need (Mark 6:32-44). The people had been fed the Word of God but were hungry for lack of natural food. Jesus told the disciples to feed **the people that were so spiritually hungry for God's presence and Word that they had left their cities where they had their natural protection and provision so they could hear Him teach.** This was an act of faith that moved the heart of God, and at the same time He was giving His disciples a lesson in the *grace of giving*.

But before we get into that lesson, let's see why giving is so important.

- 1. *It reflects the nature of God in our lives.* God is a giver. "For God so loved the world that *He gave* His only begotten Son..." John 3:16. From giving one Son, God has reaped and is reaping billions of sons and daughters.
- 2. *It opens the doors for God to give* more to us when it is done by faith in God's Word. <u>Give and it shall be given unto you...</u> Luke 6:38.
- 3. *It helps the kingdom of God to be established* in the earth realm by sending workers into the harvest field. <u>And how shall they preach, except they be sent...</u> Romans 10:15.

Growing up in Sweden I did hear some of this preached in the church when I was just a young boy of 9 years with a weekly allowance of only 2 Sv. kronor. As I began giving 20 öre or more every week in the offering, money started to come to me from all directions. It mostly came from older ladies in the church who wanted to hear me sing with my dad. In one year I had saved up more than 500 Sv. kronor which was more than enough to buy what I was asking God to give me.

Back again to Mark 6 where we see that Jesus asked the disciples to feed the people, knowing that they were without enough food and without enough resources to buy enough food.

<u>The answer to the disciples' call</u> to give food to the people <u>was not found in what they did not have</u>-lack is, contrary to what some people believe, not a blessing--or in long hours of praying and fasting begging God the Father to do something.

<u>The answer was found in what they did have</u> which was a little boy's lunch, and in *giving it by faith* as Jesus asked for it. <u>Jesus then gave it to the Father with thanksgiving</u>, just like He still does when we bring Him offerings that He has asked for .

The **anointing of multiplication** came on the bread and the fishes as Jesus **broke the food and gave** to the disciples and as they **broke it again and gave** to the people. The miracle continued, no doubt, as **the husbands gave to their wives and the wives gave to their children**.

Everybody was filled with what they were giving away. This is a wonderful and powerful **kingdom principle** that we read about in the Word of God.

It is the law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7-9), giving and receiving (Luke 6:38).

Words to study: Ephesians 2:8, 2 Corinthians 8:7, Mark 6:32-44, John 3:16, Galatians 6:7-9, Luke 6:38

-Roger Wågsjö