

*Just Think
What Is Offered You*

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JUST THINK WHAT IS OFFERED YOU

Scripture: Matthew 16:25; Luke 17:21

THIS talk centers around one of the greatest of all principles for effective living. It is the art of giving. And we mean gifts of time, prayer, service as well as material blessings. I suppose that touches upon money is likely to seem dull to many - or it arouses resistance. But the matter should be lifted far above that, for it has to do with a spiritual methodology by which human beings receive the most amazing things that God offers them.

A few years ago, before making a speech to a national supermarket convention, I found myself listening to one of the greatest spiritual testimonies I had ever heard in all my life. You would not expect to get anything like that at a supermarket convention - but why not? People who run supermarkets are the same as the rest of us. One day he called to his wife and asked, "Have we got a Bible around this house anywhere? I don't remember sitting at luncheon next to the man who was the president of the convention."

"Oh," she said, "yes, I've got my mother's Bible. It is in a bureau drawer upstairs."

"Will you bring it to me?" he requested.

"What on earth do you want with a Bible?" she asked.

"You have never read it in your life."

"I don't know," he answered. "But I feel like I want to read it. It's all. Go get it for me, will you please?"

So he brought him the Bible.

"I don't know where to begin," he continued. "I

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opened it up and some of it seemed very uninteresting, "After I got well I went to the minister of the local but I finally got into the New Testament - Matthew, Mark, church and told him I was on his team from then on if Luke and John - and, you know, the thing got hold of he would take me. And I have been giving. I have been me. It fascinated me. There was a strange, compelling giving time and thought and energy and money." terest in it. I read on and on and on. I read about all the man turned and looked me full in the face, and there was people Jesus healed. And they were pretty tough cases a glow on his face. It looked like the sunrise - as he Some of them had been given up by the doctor. So I added, "I've got the answer to life! It is to give. And look to thinking. what's offered to you if you give."

"Jesus is a squareshooter, I said to myself. He Now that was the conversation, friends, as nearly ver- wouldn't lead you on. He would give it to you straight. batim as I can recall it. I saw that man again only recently He wouldn't fail you; He wouldn't let you down. And if and he said, "The great principle is still going for me." He says He can heal people, then I believe Him. If the "And I'm sure it's going for other people through you," Bible says these people were healed, I believe that." I said.

"And then," he continued, "I came on a passage which said that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and you see, what we are talking about is what is known forever. So I thought to myself, He could heal them the as the law of supply. That is a great law. It means that and He can heal them now. And I prayed, 'Dear Lord, the world is absolutely full of goodness and that we can the doctors around here have given me up. I put myself in draw on this goodness. It is full of prosperity - using that Your hands. I believe that You can heal me.' I just had word in the broad sense of values received - and we can no doubt about it from then on." draw on this prosperity. Jesus Christ says that the kingdom

"Well," I asked, "how are you?" of God is within us. What is the kingdom of God? It

"Take a look at me," he answered. "How do I look?" means all of God's riches - all within you. But, strangely

"You certainly look healthy." enough, the only way you realize them is to give. Chris

"I am healthy, but there's more to it than that. I realized tianity is the most subtle philosophy ever developed in the I had to go deeper into what I was reading and to go history of the world. It teaches that you don't get by grab beyond healing. So I kept on reading. I came to a passage bing, or holding; you get by giving. where it says that whoever tries to save his own life is Of course you have to have quite a little faith to go going to lose it, but whoever gives his life is going to find forward on this. I maintain that both poverty and wealth it. And I said to myself, 'That is exactly what I have been are inhibiting. People living in poverty are scared. Natur trying to do - save everything. I've never given anything. ally so - because they have so little. And if you are scared you scare money away, you scare values away, you scare I don't give to the church. I give as little as possible to the blessings away. Now some wealthy people also freeze; they community chest. I'm a big money-grabber. So I am losing too are scared. They are scared that they might lose what my life.'

they have. They hold on to all of it and therefore blessings "Yes, Mr. Ford, that's what I'm out to get." stop coming to them.

One time I sat on a veranda with a woman who handed him a box. "There's a present for you, Dudley." very wealthy. But she seemed miserable. She was plainly dressed and her car in the driveway was twelve years old. "Open it up. That's the best way to find out." She said, "Why waste money on a new car?" Her father So Dudley opened it up and found a pair of spectacles. had been a great benefactor. He gave to hospital after hospital. Only the glass had been taken out and two big round hospital, school after school. Then he left all his money. "Put them on." And Dudley put them on. to this poor, miserable, miserly soul. She actually sat there Ford said, "Put them on. And Dudley put them on. that afternoon with her fingers fearfully clutched together. Now, Dudley, what do you see?" as she asked me, "What will happen to me in my old age if I lose my money?" "Why," he said, "I don't see anything." She had never married, probably because she was afraid any man she might marry would dissipate her money. "Of course you don't see anything," said Henry Ford, "because the dollars are in your way. But if you put the glass back in there, so that you can see the world and all She left her money to her nephew, who like her father the human need and all the things people desire and all started giving - and he lived a life that was rich and full. that the world can be and all that you can do, and if Oh, yes, you can scare blessings away, whether you have a lot or whether you have a little. "the dollars will take care of themselves."

AT ONE time we had in the congregation at Marble Collegiate Church a man who had started out with Henry Ford. Whenever I preached a sermon like this he would make a big contribution, because he had learned a lesson. One day Henry Ford, who was a whimsical man, said to my friend, "Dudley, what's your big ambition in life?"

"That's easy," said Dudley. "It's to make a million bucks and make it fast. Then I'm going to get myself a nice home and a nice car and have a yacht on the river and I'm not going to work any more. All I want is a million dollars."

So Ford said, "That's what you want, is it? A million dollars?"

When telling of this, Dudley would admit, "But I kept the dollars right in front of me for quite a while. Eventually, though, I learned my lesson." And he gave many generous contributions to Marble Collegiate Church and to other causes. He loved the Lord and he loved to give and it had activated for him the law of supply. Another great advocate of observing the law of supply was Frank Boyden, who was headmaster for over sixty years of Deerfield Academy at Deerfield, Mass. He was one of the great experts on boys. They loved him. He first took charge of this preparatory school when they had only a few students. The place was on the verge of being sold out. They were heavily in debt. But if you will go there today you will see the most marvelous plant, with around 500 students. I asked Frank Boyden one day, "How did

you get this place built up?"

"Well," he said, "the bank over at Greenfield must have written me off a hundred times, but we never had to close, because whenever I got down to bottom I'd talk to the Lord about it. The Lord would tell me, 'Frank, give some more and I will tighten up my belt and of the night and was scared. I hate to admit it, but I was. I would give more of my own money, more of myself. People were saying that the country would never be more of my hopes and more of my dreams. And the blessing was the same again. They were saying that this country was going through these years have just rolled in - because I finished. Some of you are old enough to remember this. I wanted to make good men out of little boys and I thought those of you who are not old enough cannot possibly of myself to do it."

Now you may be thinking that, well, these men were again in the United States. The air at that time was unusual characters. Yes, they were; but that was what was filled with gloom. Well, that night I dressed and went out all are supposed to be. And I will tell you this: If you are and walked in Walnut Park, with fear clutching at my missing blessings in your life, if your life is paltry, if heart. How were we going to live? were we going the flow of prosperity has been inhibited, the thing to keep the church going? How were we going to go is start giving? Even give when you haven't anything to head? How were we going to pay bills? give, just give anyway. I know what I am talking about. When I came home I found my wife frying bacon and

PERHAPS I should not relate anything as personal as like that sort of builds you up. Then when we had had what I am now going to tell you, but here we go. One breakfast my wife took me into the living room and said, the best things I ever did in my life was when I got married. Now, look. You went to a theological seminary, didn't ried. I was very fortunate in the girl I married. My father, you? And you are supposed to be a Christian minister, was a minister. He never was paid more than about \$5,000 a year. You are my husband, but you are also my a year. I worked my way through college and through the seminary. I ran a dumbwaiter in the Y.W.C.A. in Boston the second. I want to tell you something, Norman. All (and was widely known as the dumbest dumbwaiter they ever had). I didn't have two nickels to rub together. And we haven't anything to give."

I married a girl who didn't have two nickels to rub together. And we will give of what we have. We will increase our gether either. We were married in Syracuse, New York. And we will rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ in 1930, when the Great Depression was on. Syracuse was not to serving human beings. I'll promise you this," she a city that had very little industry, and they thought it could withstand the depression. But day after day I saw her face as she said it - "I'll promise you this: if you

will rededicate yourself to Jesus Christ and if you will give your money, and if you will give your time, to God and to the church and to human beings, God will always take care of us. You can forget being afraid."

That was a long time ago and He has always taken care of us. We have had blessings. Why? Because in telling about a good deed he had done, and he said serve them? No! But that kind of faith will always bring blessings.

So don't go through life being scared, for you can scare yourself into scarcity. My wife and I together give a lot more than 10% of our income. I would be afraid to give only 10%. I would be scared that scarcity would come back if I stopped giving. It is a law. It will work for anybody. Give even when you don't feel that you can give, keep giving more and more and more and more and the blessings will become more and more and more. The blessings will pour in from the law of supply. I know. That is why I have told this personal story.

You may say, "But I can't give because I've only got so much and I'm in debt- I have lots of debts." Well, recently I was rereading one of my books which shows you to what extremities you can be reduced!) and I read about a Mr. and Mrs. who live in Kansas. I never met this Mr. and Mrs. but I had a lot of correspondence with them. They had read one of my earlier books and wrote me a letter telling me they were broke. What were they going to do? They had started a little store and were \$10,000 in debt and were being sued. The store had failed and Mr. had got a job paying him from \$310 a month. They were trying to live off that and pay off the debts. What were they going to do? How would positive thinking help them in that situation?

Well, there happened to be a friend of mine living in that area. He would be angry with me if I were to mention his name in connection with the good he does, because he says that you must never let the one hand know what the other hand is doing. Once I did mention him by name in telling about a good deed he had done, and he said he took him six months to nullify the damage I thereby did. So I am not mentioning his name. Well, I asked him to go and see Mr. and Mrs. and presently I received a letter from Mrs. L. in which she said, "I never met such a friend in my life!"

My friend said to them, "Okay, show me your bills." They showed him the bills. He asked, "How much have you got in the bank?" Well, they had practically nothing in the bank. He asked, "How much are you earning?" "Three hundred and ten dollars a month." "All right," he said, "let's just cut one tenth out of the \$310 and you go to your church and give that to the minister and tell him to use it for the kingdom of God."

Why!" Mrs. L. exclaimed, "we couldn't spare that much money! Look at our debts!"

"All right, madam," my friend told her. "I was once \$63,000 in debt, and I took more than one tenth of what I earned and went and gave it, and I kept giving more; and the more I got in debt the more I gave, and finally I came to the point where the dam burst and the pros broke came over the top and my debts were washed away." Well, they could hardly believe it, but they followed his advice. And I have in my files a whole series of letters from Mrs. L., written over a period of years, which tell the story of how this couple emerged from financial disaster. Blessings have multiplied to them because they stopped trying to hold onto everything and started giving for

Jesus Christ.

So think carefully and clearly about this principle. Think what is offered you through the law of supply. The law of supply works only as you give.

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have taught us that we gain blessings by giving, that we receive by letting go. We ask You to bless everyone with a realization that as he opens his purse he will bring upon himself a filling up of more than his purse - his heart and mind and his whole life. Just think what is offered us! For this we give Thee thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen ..

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If you or your friends are planning to visit New York City you are reminded that a special service is held every Sunday at 9 :45 A.M. to accommodate those who would like to avoid the crowded service ~~at 11 A.M.~~ There is no waiting for this first service.

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*(The two-service schedule is from
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