

Introduction

1. Nowhere in the Gospel records of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John will you find the title words explicitly stated by Jesus.
 - a. This should not surprise us ([Jn. 21:25](#); cf. [Jn. 20:30-31](#)).
 - b. The inspired apostle Paul remembered these words of the Lord Jesus as he spoke to the Ephesian elders at Miletus ([Ac. 20:16-17](#)).
2. The context shows the need to work so that the weak can be supported ([Ac. 20:35](#)).
 - a. labouring (*kopiaō* G2872 verb) "to labor with wearisome effort, to toil...of bodily labor" (Thayer 355).
 - b. weak (*astheneō* G770 verb) "to be weak in means, needy, poor" (Thayer 80).
 - c. to support (*antilambano* G482 verb) "to take someone's part by assisting, take part, come to the aid of" (BDAG 89).
 - d. The American Standard Version (ASV) brings to the surface the fact that Paul left them an example of this very behavior.
 - e. This is the same sentiment as taught in [Ephesians 4:28](#) where it is connected with **giving** for those in need.
3. While [Acts 20:35](#) certainly applies to giving to the needy, we gain great benefits from giving in general.

I. Being Blessed

1. An examination of the word "blessed" in an English dictionary reveals several definitions (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary):
 - a. "held in reverence: venerated," "honored in worship: hallowed," or "beatific."
 - b. "of or enjoying happiness specifically: enjoying the bliss of heaven."
 - c. "bringing pleasure, contentment, or good fortune."
2. In the New Testament, we first encounter the word "blessed" in the beatitudes ([Mt. 5:3-11](#)).
 - a. Blessed (*makarios* G3107 adjective) found 50 times in the New Testament.

- b. Various definitions for this Greek word exist but they all include or allude to the idea of "happy" or "happiness."
- c. If we take the definition of "happy" and substitute it for "blessed" in [Acts 20:35](#) we get "It is more **happy** to give than to receive."
- d. We now have a connection with our happiness and giving.

II. Heavenly Happiness

- 1. It has been said that, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
- 2. Our treasures must be laid up in Heaven ([Mt. 6:19-21](#)).
 - a. Our goal in life is not "to die with the most toys."
 - b. The Earth and everything in it is temporary and fleeting ([2 Cor. 4:18](#)).
 - c. To have Heavenly happiness we must be storing our treasures in Heaven.
 - d. The only way to do that is to give and it starts with self ([2 Cor. 8:5](#)).
- 3. The love of money produces only sorrow and destruction ([1 Tim. 6:9-10](#)).
 - a. The unhappiest person and the most self-centered person are one and the same.
 - b. The remedy to this problem? A good start would be to get **out** of self and **give** to others.

Conclusion

- 1. This month our focus will continue to be on giving and the great lessons we can learn from the Bible about it.
- 2. We rob ourselves of happiness when we turn our focus solely inwardly instead of helping others.
- 3. The Lord has blessed us so that we may bless others (cf. [Jm. 1:17](#)).