

“The Blessing Of Giving”

1. READ

Scripture: John 6: 5 - 11 New International Version (NIV)

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered him, “It would take almost a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

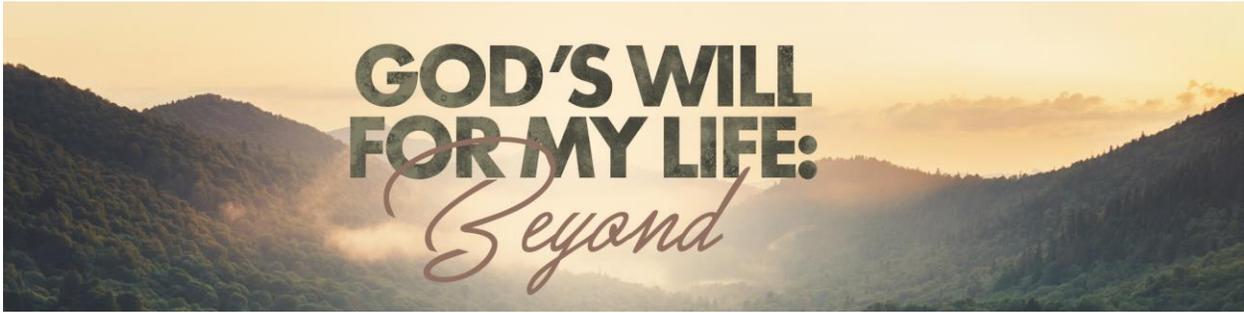
Scripture: 1 Kings 17: 7 – 16 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”



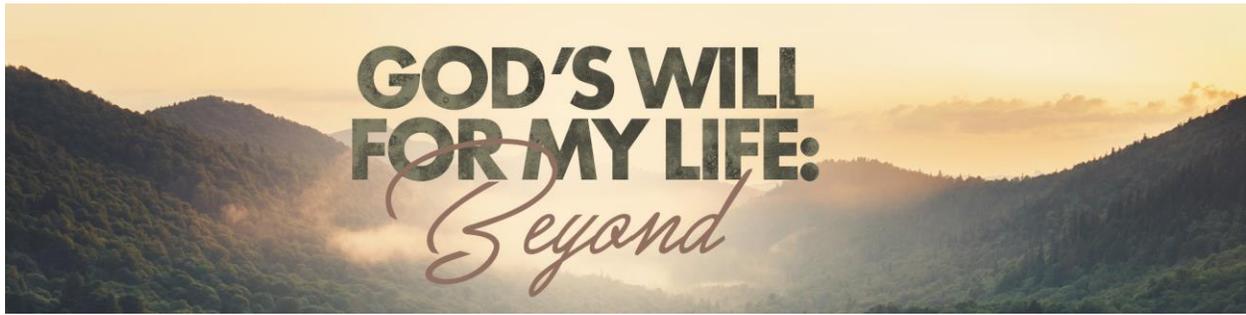


¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

Scripture: Luke 21: 1- 4 New International Version (NIV)

¹ And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, ² and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites.^[a] ³ So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; ⁴ for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings ^[b] for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”





Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: 1 Kings 17, Luke 21, and Revelation 14

REFLECT



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This is week three of the series “God’s Will For My Life”. This week Pastor Watley uses the title, “The Blessing of Giving”. In his introduction, Pastor Watley tells us a story of when his family traveled to Great Britain. While traveling, the tour guide pointed out a pub that was founded in 1520. This is important because while the pub is there, the founders or the owners weren’t. Pastor’s point is that they built a legacy and we’re doing the same thing at Kingdom. We’re building something that will outlast us and our families. This is the “The Blessing of Giving” that Pastor Watley is listing for us today. Pastor uses “The feeding of the 5,000” found in the Gospel of John as the focus scripture. Pastor points out that the young man in our scripture was the only one seemingly prepared and he gave of his lunch. He gave of something that seemed to be so small but would end up feeding so many.





Pastor shares that there are several other scriptures where the faith to give has been a blessing but it is also a sacrifice. The widow of Zarephath and her giving to the prophet

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and then Pastor speaks about the Widow’s mite and her willingness to give of everything that she had.

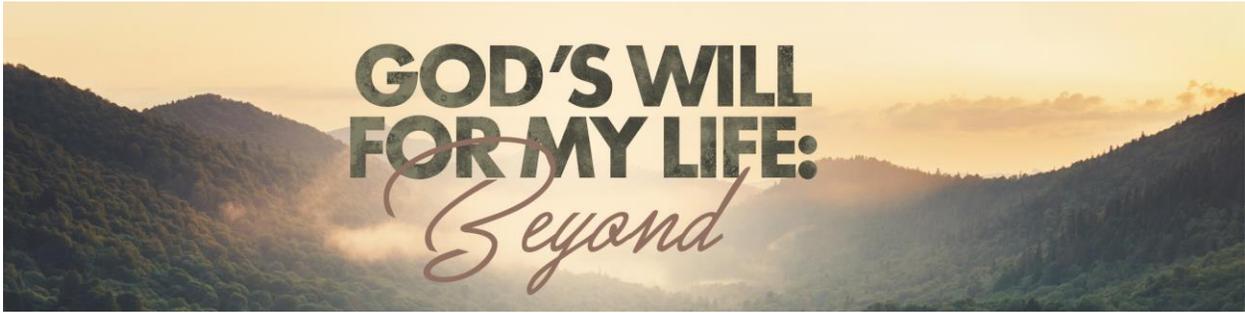
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Pastor shares that these two stories and the story of the young man have the same pattern:

- Receive
- Give thanks
- Give it again
- Then receive (repeat)

At the end of the day, our blessing as Pastor shares is linked to our willingness to give and give to God’s purpose for our lives. We can never beat God’s giving no matter how hard we try.





1. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ï Why do you think the young man was the only one with lunch?
- ï What do you think would be the impact of this story in your life?

Discussion Questions

- ï How do you think the disciples felt when they had the 12 left over baskets of food?

