

## Two Views on “Seeking First the Kingdom of God”

Luke 6:38 is an often quoted Scripture. There are many different views on this verse and its meaning. Some say that to receive God’s blessings you need to give first. Others say it is talking about being gracious and merciful so that God will do the same with you. But what did Christ really mean when he said this? I hope to give you an objective view on both sides of the subject so you can decide for yourself what this truly means.

First, we will look at the latter group. They believe that this verse is usually taken out of context. That, if you read the verses around it you will clearly see that it has nothing to do with money and everything to do with being kind to others so that your “inner man” will experience grace and forgiveness from Christ. They often reference Matthew 18:23-35 (the parable of the unmerciful servant) to help make their point.

Larry Burkett, founder of Christian Financial Concepts was perhaps the most famous Christian financial counselor of his time. Mr. Burkett believed that this verse did concern money and that if you tithe and joyfully give to God he will bless you. Burkett references Malachi 3:8 and II Corinthians 9:6 to back his point. He has also used surveys and other research to confirm his views on this scripture.

There however is a third view. Some have combined the previous viewpoints on this verse into one. They claim that Christ was saying both things with it. They believe that if you want to receive grace and forgiveness from Jesus then you need to give grace and forgiveness to others. Likewise, they believe that if you want to receive spiritual and financial blessings then you should cheerfully give a tithe to God without expectations from him; that you should give just because you are thankful.

Obviously, this can be a verse to come up with a clear view on but if you take the time to research it, I believe you will be able to understand what it truly means. Perhaps if you study the Scriptures referenced here in their full context and study the works of Larry Burkett and other Christian financial counselors you will be able to come up with a clear view on this subject.