



49. Real Giving

“And He [that’s Jesus] also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous’,” Luke 14:12-14.

Jesus spoke these words to a leader of the Pharisees who was hosting a Sabbath-day dinner. The man had undoubtedly invited his friends, relatives, and family to the dinner. Jesus told him that he had invited the

wrong guests. They were the wrong guests because they could repay him. Jesus told him to invite those who could not repay ... and, as a result, he would be repaid at the Resurrection.

Jesus was speaking about more than hosting dinners. He was teaching about the motives of all giving. *Giving to get* is not really giving. We invite people to our homes. And unfortunately, if we get no similar invitations from our guests, we don't invite them to our next gatherings. This may be normal behavior ... but it's not being like Jesus. Think about your own giving to the work of the Lord. Giving with one hand, while holding your other hand out for something in return, is not giving. Isn't that really just buying? Give while expecting nothing in return ... that is true giving. That *is* being like Jesus.