

GETTING MORE

Author: Rev. Susan Bennett

Mark 4:24-25 says, *And Jesus said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."*

Many preachers like to preach these verses in terms of the offering plate! But this passage appears in the middle of Jesus explaining what the kingdom of God is like, and no mention is made of money at all. In fact, to apply these words to anything physical is more of a stretch than I'm willing to make. So ... if it's not money or things, what is Jesus talking about? Where do we need to give more in order to get more?

My first thought is in reading scripture. If it's drudgery, if we neglect it for days at a time, our love for the Word will grow cold and we'll begin to forget even the verses we learned as a child. But if we pick up our Bible every day, KNOWING that God has at least a kernel, and probably a truckload, of real truth for us that day, we'll read with expectant eagerness and the Spirit can do amazing things in our hearts. When we come with at least a little anticipation and faith, God takes what we have to give and uses it to give us MORE.

What about worship? What happens if we only come to worship to GET? If we're not prepared, if we're not expecting to have an experience with God, worship can become a time when we're just the audience, waiting to be entertained or spoon-fed. Inevitably, we become not worshipers, but critics ... and the little we have dwindles even more. But if we come to worship expecting to revel in the music and the Word and the prayers and the preaching and the fellowship, God will NOT disappoint us. When we give more to worship, we discover how very, very much GOD has to give – more clarity, more faith, more joy!

The more we love, the more love we'll have to give. The greater our faith, the deeper our faith goes. Our job? Seek God and be happy to give fully – to him and to those he puts into our lives. And still more will be given you!