

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Jesus of Nazareth

There is one quotation of Jesus Christ that the gospels did not record. "The Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20.35)"

Why the gospels omitted these words of Jesus is anyone's guess, but it seems clear that Paul aims to urge remembrance upon his friends of the importance of giving the gift of charity.



I like to think of charity as the transfer of one's love or affection over to the community. A responsibility to give, or to transfer love over to one's community is a dominant virtue that should be in everyone and every church.

For in giving, love does not die in us but brings us the true blessing of joy in knowing that we have served God and God's people. When we give our love, whether it manifests itself through our resources, our prayers, or our lives, we are asking God to bestow more of his grace and blessing upon our lives and our world. Indeed, in our faith, we will find that we are more blessed when we give our love!

I invite you to consider how you give your love and how you can give more of your love towards God's work in our world. What kind of joy do you want to experience in the transfer of your love over into your community?

For as Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7.7-8)"

My friends, may we, behind the gifts of all our love, find the doorway into the depths of God's joyous grace.

Fr. Stephen+