

## Nothing's Too Hard for God / Financial Need (6.2)

# Be a Giver

**Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 11:42**

The story is told of a man stumbling through the desert, dying of thirst. Literally hours from death, he came across a deserted town with an ancient, rusty pump in the middle of the square. Overjoyed, he grabbed the handle and began pumping the well. His enthusiasm died when he realized nothing was coming out. But then he saw a note carved into an old plank nearby. It read simply, "Under this board is a jug of water. To get water from the pump, prime it by pouring all the water into the pump shaft. Make sure you refill the jug for the next person."

The man lifted the plank, grabbed the jug, and sure enough, it was almost full of water. But now he had a dilemma. If he drank the water, he might live long enough to get back to the main road. But if he poured the water down the pump, he could end up with more water than he'd ever need. Or maybe the message was wrong and he'd have nothing at all.

Reluctantly, he poured the water down the pump and began working the handle. One minute... two minutes...nothing. What had he done? But then a little stream began to flow. Before long it was gushing pure, cool water. He drank all he could hold, then filled his empty canteen as well as another jug he found in a nearby building. Finally, he refilled the priming jug and replaced it. As he left, he added to the note on the plank: "This really does work. You just have to trust it."

There are times when our financial status leaves us feeling a little like that man stranded in the desert—desperate, endangered, and definitely lacking. Yet no matter how little we have, God calls upon us to be givers, helping others in times of need. It's times like those when we need an extra portion of faith to follow Christ's clear command in Luke 6:38...

**Give, and it will be given to you....  
For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**

How do you respond when facing an especially difficult financial crisis? Do you go into "conserve" mode and search desperately for ways to recapture a sense of security? That's a common response. But God's command is clear: Be willing to sacrifice for others, even when you have only a little. You might be surprised at the blessings He will pour into your life.

**What are some ways we can give to others in need, even when we're lacking resources ourselves? Name some specific things we can give to the needy besides money.**

**How can you overcome the temptation to anxiously hoard your resources in times of need and opt instead to be a giver in whatever ways you are able?**