

# “Three Things That Are Good About Giving”

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**Opening Thought:** If you have children, has there ever been a time when they taught you something about God, about life, or about yourself? Jesus said that **children can teach adults** about the kingdom of God. In **Matthew 18:4**, Jesus said, “*Whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*” **It’s a beautiful sight** when children give and share their possessions. However, **it’s a pitiful sight** when they don’t give or share. The same can be said about adults.

The story of **the feeding of the 5,000** is told in all four gospels, but the “*lad*” mentioned in **John 6:9** is found in only one account. The English word “*lad*” is “**paedorion**” in the Greek language, and it means “**a little boy.**” This word is used only one time in the New Testament. From the Greek root “*paedo*” comes the word translated to “*children*” in English. Therefore, **pediatrics** is the branch of medicine which deals with children and their diseases.

Jesus could have rained down bread from heaven that day. Instead, He did something different. Jesus wanted someone to **partner with Him** in feeding 5,000 hungry people (**John 6:4 – 9**).

- **How did Andrew find this little boy?** We are not sure. The Bible doesn’t say. He may have seen him about to eat or he may have shouted, “Does anyone have any food?”

**Main Idea:** There is much this young boy can teach us about **the good of giving**. Like this lad...

## 1) We Should Give For The Common Good

- This little boy gave his offering to Jesus, and thousands were blessed by his gift. We see this exemplified in **Acts 2:44 – 45; 4:32 – 37, 11:29 – 30**.
- This little fella gave Jesus **everything** he had. He didn’t pinch off 10%. He gave 100%. The widow with the two mites put in **all** her livelihood (**Luke 21:1 – 3**). Until we can give God everything, we should give Him everything we are supposed to give. **II Corinthians 8:7** says, “*But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace [of giving] also.*”
- This little boy gave purposefully. He knew what the specific need was and gave accordingly. He rose to the occasion.
- This little boy gave his offering to Jesus. It went through Andrew’s hands to Jesus’ hands. **But what if Andrew had decided to steal all of it or keep back part of it?**
- This little boy gave without knowing what Jesus would do with his offering. He gave by faith. He didn’t try to control the offering or put conditional strings on it.

## 2) We Should Give For Our Personal Good

- This little boy gave and was abundantly blessed! He gave and received back more than he had given (**John 6:11 – 12**).
- God is a giver (**John 3:16**). Therefore, when we give, we become more like God and more like Jesus. Conversely, whenever we steal, we become more like the devil (**John 10:10**).
- A Christian is not under the law, not even the law of tithing (**Romans 6:14**). However, a Christian is under a command to give (**Luke 6:38**). According to this passage, what did Jesus say will happen when we give?
- When we give, our faith grows because we learn to trust God as a provider. **Malachi 3:10**
- When we give, we develop **testimonies** of God miraculously giving back to us.

## 3) We Should Give For Our Eternal Good

- Do you believe this little boy heard “**Well done!**” when he got to heaven? As a pastor, I am to **command** rich people to give and share for the sake of eternity. **I Tim. 6:17 – 19**
- We don’t know this little boy’s name but 2,000 years later we are still talking about him!
- This little boy gave **without having to be known**. In the other three gospel accounts, there is no mention of a little boy. He didn’t receive a building with his name on it, a stained-glass image of himself, or a pew named in his honor. People who give generously and in the right spirit don’t want to be known. However, those (**hypocrites**) who give and want to be known will receive their reward on earth from people (**Matthew 6:1 – 4**).
- God will reward **some** of His children in heaven for things they did on earth that brought Him glory (**I Corinthians 3:12 – 15, II Corinthians 5:10**).

**Final Thought:** This young boy teaches us so much about **the good of giving**. Like this tyke, we should give for the common good, our personal good, and our eternal good. Financial stewardship is **a key component** of our spiritual development. We cannot say we are growing spiritually if we are not giving financially to the Lord at His church.

### Discussion Questions for Disciples

1. Who is one of the best givers you know? What makes this person special in your eyes?
2. Please share a testimony about a time God gave back to you after you gave to Him.
3. How can “the principle of the tithe” help us in our financial giving under grace?
4. Why do you think God loves a cheerful giver (**II Corinthians 9:6 – 7**)?