

It Is More Blessed to Give than Receive

Acts 20:35

Reflections on two American holidays and the calendar

"It is more blessed to give than receive." -Jesus in Acts 20:35

(1) What does "blessed" mean?

- It's more than a good feeling, but the good feeling is usually part of it! See the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:2-12.

(2) Giving is "more blessed." So who must be the most blessed one?

- The Lord, giver of every good gift (James 1:17)

- But wait... some wonder if God ever gave anything at a personal cost?
 - Absolutely. Consider John 3:16 and Romans 8:32.

(3) The context of Acts 20:35 is Paul's practice of giving and not exploiting others. What motivates Paul, and what's worth giving to?

Questions for Further Reflection and Application:

1. How can you and your family "Christianize" your celebration of this Thanksgiving and Christmas?
2. How is God the most blessed one according to Acts 20:35 and James 1:17?
3. What's worth giving to and why? What's your conviction and calling here?