



The Parable of the Givers and Takers

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There was living in a town near here a group of children well known to their children's church leader. She scrambled each week to find exciting videos, flashy stories and special prizes to motivate her class to keep quiet and sit still just a little bit longer. She noticed that little she did seemed to change the childrens' attitudes in any way. Their criticism of her and church in general was quite clear.

As she observed the children in relation to their parents, the same attitude was apparent: Nothing they did quite measured up to their childrens' expectations. She observed that they were ungrateful and cared only for themselves and what they could get. Once she suggested they might want to bring some food or an offering to help a needy family downtown—and the children laughed. When the box was taken, only her gifts were there; she was reminded she had *takers* and they expected only to *get!*

Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Not too far away there was another group of children. From the cradle roll through early childhood they had been taught that God loved them and had made them for a special purpose. As soon as they were old enough not to eat their money they were given little wooden barrels to fill with coins for literature to tell others about Jesus. As they gave they



felt the approval of their pastor, their church, and their parents. The children grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with

God. The children's church leader noticed she had eager children—children who sometimes sat on the edges of their seats as she told them favorite Bible stories—children who waved their hands when she needed helpers—children who were givers. They responded warmly to new children who came, faithfully brought their BGMC offerings, and prayed earnestly for the missionary prayer pals assigned to them each month. Some asked if they could write to their missionary families and send them birthday and Christmas gifts. One Sunday she asked if any of them felt God might be calling them to be a missionary, or pastor, or Sunday school teacher...and they all came forward.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

What are the "heart conditions" of the kids at *your* church?

Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade would like to help you fill your children's hearts with love for their neighbors and the world, and train them to give so that the lost ones of this world may come to find Jesus as their Savior. If we can accomplish that, we know they will be receptive to a lifelong call to serve Him. Write or call if there's anything we can do to help you make children's missions education effective in your church. You can reach us at BGMC, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, MO, 65802 (417) 862-2781, Extension 4009.



