

Invest

Luke 6:38

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A. Guaranteed Returns (v. 38a):

1. Give – Christ commands us to decisively (as He gives to us; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2) make it a habit to repeatedly put in place what He has commanded us to do with a cheerful heart (2 Corinthians 9:6-15).
 - a) If we live to give, God will see to it that we receive; but if we live only to get, God will see to it that we lose. This principle applies not only to our giving of money, but also to the giving of ourselves in ministry to others.^[1]

2. Give – Giving is viewed as the ‘harvest of righteousness’ (fruit of the Spirit; 2 Corinthians 9:10) because our commitment to obey God’s Word repeatedly demonstrates acts of faith, showing that we trust Him to fulfill His Word.

3. Give – This kind of giving does not have any personal agendas. It is all in reflection of who God is and what He has instructed us to do.
 - a) Christian charity will make no difficulty giving that which eternal truth promises to restore. Let us give, neither out of mere human generosity, out of vanity, nor from interest, but for the sake of God, if we would have Him place it to account.

4. Shall be given – Even though God demonstrates many acts of love towards us every day when we choose to give, He permanently provides back to us what we have given Him. In other words, we add a level of security to what we had in the first place as He gives it back to us.

a) God giving back to us is a PROMISE!

B. High Percentage Yield (v. 38b):

1. Shall be poured – The Lord's promise is with no mind to be exact with us because of our obedience to Him. It is His grace to us. Grace is spontaneous, generous, and free-hearted, with no expectation of return to the giver.

2. Lap, bosom – What God permanently put back in place is something we now possess. It is designated as belonging to us and no one else. Bosom or lap means a person's personal space.

a) *Poured into your lap*: This probably refers to how the outer garment was worn, leaving a fold over the belt that could be used as a large pocket to hold a measure of wheat.

b) Almost all ancient nations wore long, wide, and loose garments, and when carrying anything that their hands could not contain, they used a fold of their robe nearly the same way women here used their aprons. (from Adam Clarke's Commentary).

3. Good measure - Good measure is the execution of God's gift, based on the will of God, precisely as it should be implemented, so it is done fairly and without

error. God is good (James 1:17), so there is no way He can rob anyone. We are the ones that rob Him (Malachi 3:8).

- a) Grain contracts sometimes stipulate that the same instrument—that of the purchaser—must be used to measure both the grain and the payment.^{163/}[\[2\]](#)
4. Good measure - If we keep what belongs to God even if it is in our laps, it is not permanent; any event can take it from us. So, what we measure to ourselves is never secure, which could be better. This is why in Matthew 6:19-20 the Lord says, *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.”* (NASU).
5. Press down – The Lord would do whatever it takes to provide for us beyond our measure. God may allow some pressure to come upon our lives to finish school and excel at our jobs so that He can find ways to bless us beyond our expectations; for example, “Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.” (Proverbs 10:4)
- a) The image here relates to the purchase of grain. A generous seller not only fills up the measuring container for the customer, but then presses down the grain and shakes the container to make room for even more. He then tops it off until it overflows into the customer’s lap. The “lap” (*kolpos*) may refer to the folds of the garment at the waist, which could serve as a large pocket for the grain.^[3]
6. Shaken – To farmers shaking out barley, Christ uses what they are accustomed to doing as they seek to get all they can from their harvest. Christ will ensure

that what He provides back to us is missing absolutely nothing when it is returned to our permanent possession.

7. Running over – God’s return is not just completely everything we gave to Him; it is continuously delivered beyond the measure we gave. Just as we make it a habit to repeatedly give to God, God repeatedly makes it a habit to be excessive in His response to us.

- a) The issue is not that human generosity is accorded the same generosity (no more or no less) from God but that human generosity is rewarded with divine generosity, which is far greater, as the early part of this verse shows. Of course, showing little generosity will result in little receiving (cf. 8:18;

19:25–26).^[4]

8. Running over – Running over-emphasizes God’s generosity. He does not mind if our ‘barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.’ (Proverbs 3:10).

C. The Returns Depends on What is Invested (v. 38c):

1. By your standard of measure – All of what the Lord will do is continuously determined by how we give. God is waiting on us, while many people are waiting on God.

- a) The final clause gives a basis for the teaching by re-emphasising that men will receive from God according to the measure that they themselves have employed. The saying is paralleled in Mt. 7:2b, the wording of which exactly corresponds to Mk. 4:24b.^[5]

2. Will be measured - The Lord who cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18) promises to repay us in the manner described in this passage, precisely as He said He would. This is His promise to us.

a) The concluding statement of the verse has its ultimate origin in the terms of grain contracts in which it was frequently specified that grain delivery and payment therefore would be measured with the same instrument—that of the purchaser (see Couroyer, *RB* 77 [1970] 366–70). Similar statements are used proverbially in a variety of Jewish sources (see Rüger, *ZNW* 60 [1969] 174–82).^[6]

3. Will be measured - If a pastor or church were to do wrong to anyone, it does not stop what God promises to do and what He also says He will do to those who abuse His sheep (Ezekiel 34:7-10).

^[1] Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 193). Victor Books.

^[2] Arnold, C. E. (2002). [Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke](#) (Vol. 1, p. 381). Zondervan.

^[3] Arnold, C. E. (2002). [Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke](#) (Vol. 1, p. 381). Zondervan.

^[4] Stein, R. H. (1992). [Luke](#) (Vol. 24, p. 212). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

^[5] Marshall, I. H. (1978). [The Gospel of Luke: a commentary on the Greek text](#) (p. 267). Paternoster Press.

^[6] Nolland, J. (1989). [Luke 1:1–9:20](#) (Vol. 35A, p. 301). Word, Incorporated.