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If I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning."---Psalm 137, v.5.

Sermon

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"It is more blessed to give than to receive."—
Acts xx, 35.

It is a very difficult thing to make people believe this—but it is a thing still more difficult to make them practice it. And although this glorious truth carries with it all the authority of God's word, and is vouched for as the words of Jesus by an inspired Apostle, still we could easily find many who are disposed to question the truth they contain, and who will hesitate before accepting it as a fact that "it is more blessed to give than to receive. There are few, perhaps, who will doubt the declaration of St. Paul, that "the Lord loveth the cheerful giver," while many may be found who deny by their deeds and lives, if not by their words and profession, that there is more blessedness in giving than in receiving. We feel safe in going further and declaring that there are many among us who would wax indignant if any doubts were cast on their belief in all the declarations of God's word, who, nevertheless, by sealing up their bowels of compassion against their fellows, declare in the strongest manner possible their doubts as to the truth of the great principle laid down in the text.

If each will appeal to his own experience of men and things in the daily world he will see how true this is. Are there not many who profess and call themselves followers of that Lord, who uttered these words, who yet have never attained to their true spirit?—many who

have never tasted the luxury of the cheerful giver?—many whose only happiness consists in receiving and who never realized the blessedness of giving? Now the reason of all this is to be found in the fact, that many so far miss the real spirit of the text as to suppose that, unless possessed of wealth, they cannot occupy the position of a giver. They imagine that the possession of an ample fortune is a necessary qualification for those who would aspire to the blessedness here spoken of. They foolishly suppose that gold and silver are the only channel through which the heart can send out its sympathies; and hence they deprive themselves and others of much genuine happiness. They forget that earth's noblest givers have not been its millionaires, but men who gave self and sympathy, not silver and gold,—men who, perhaps, had nothing to bestow but kind looks and words of comfort and cheer that went to the hearts of a people and fired them with new life and light. These are the world's best benefactors,—men who have shed warmth and sunshine on its cold breast,—men who have plucked up many a thorn from its rugged pathways,—dried many a tear from the eye of grief,—banished many a care from the sorrowing heart and filled many a Pool of Bethesda with the healing waters of comfort and peace.

Let us try to illustrate and enforce the meaning of the text. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The first principle or foundation of our Holy Religion is Love. It is the great band that binds earth and Heaven; the great chain that connects God and man. We were made