

FULL MEASURE

Luke 6: 36-38

Saturday, February 24, 2018, 10th Day of Lent

These verses are part of what is known as “the sermon on the plain” and follow shortly after Jesus speaks the Beatitudes. Jesus is giving His followers messages related to how best to get along in life. Key words “be merciful, just as your Father is also merciful to you.” (v 36) “Judge not that you shall not be judged” (v 37) “Give and it shall be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together” (v38) NKJV.

Those words, “pressed down” reminds me of another set of instructions in my everyday life, a recipe I use a lot for chocolate chip cookies. The instruction for measuring the brown sugar calls for it to be “firmly packed”. Not a skimpy measure.

Jesus is giving us a recipe for a rewarding life with God. Whatever we do we are to do with full energy and intent. In the full measure we use, it will be measured back to us. By our lives we are giving an indication of the mercy we expect from God. We may not see the results in this life, but in the life we inherit.

The floods of 2016 and 2017 have shown the measure of the people of West Virginia. People have shown mercy by showing up to muck out flood filled houses, churches and schools. People and companies have made donations of cleaning products and bottled water. They have given of their time and energy not just in the time of disaster, but in the years of rebuilding. This is a clear indication of a people who have heard the message of this passage. Floods and other disasters will continue. We are called to be a mercy filled giving people, in full measure. May this continue to be so.

Jesus set the bar high in His expectation of our devotion to mercy. He gave His life for us. Surely it is our responsibility to give our full measure of devotion in our lives as well.

Prayer: Almighty God, May we give a full measure of mercy to others through our actions. May we use the example of Christ who died for our sins that we may know eternal life. Amen

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