



“He that has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and that which he has given will the LORD repay.” Proverbs 19:17

The Lord is no man’s debtor! He Who keeps the running tally on the number of your hairs also keeps a marvelous record of your financial giving!<sup>1</sup> Every kindness you offer another person is noted and credited to your account! “... Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water *if* only in the name of a disciple, very, I say to you, he shall in no way lose his reward.” (Matthew 10:42).

Your gift to those in need is counted by the Lord as a loan! One paraphrase of this verse says, “...And O what marvelous interest He pays!”<sup>2</sup> This is partially why you cannot “out give God” as He credits your giving as a loan. What this means then is that all of giving that you do never leaves your ownership<sup>3</sup> but continues to accrue to your account!

Let’s look from a slightly different angle. Next time you are faced with the needs of the poor consider this – the Lord Himself asking you for a personal loan that He might meet the needs of this person. Now honestly dear saint of God, how could you refuse Jesus His request?

“Father, bend my heart to the needs of the poor and needy. Out of the abundance of grace You have so graciously imparted to me, let me bless others! Amen!”

<sup>1</sup> Giving can be categorized in three basic areas. The tithe – your first ten percent of income is “paid” to the place where God’s Spirit has set you to be a member. (1 Corinthians 12:18; Malachi 3:8). Secondly, we are called to bring our offerings, which are those gifts we choose to give above our tithe, to the furtherance of the Gospel. And finally the third form of giving may be considered “alms” which is our remembrance of the poor and needy.

<sup>2</sup> The Message

<sup>3</sup> Ownership – we may possess our own souls (Luke 21:19), but all else is our stewardship under God’s care and goodness!

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