

GIVERS

*From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j.
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Intent of the Story.

- ✓ *Giving and sharing.*
- ✓ *Types of givers*
- ✓ *Give of what you are not only of what you have.*

The Story

Once a Teacher asked her students to write an essay on “Giving” A bright and witty student wrote the following essay.

“Giving is sharing of what we have and of what we are. However, there are many ways of being a generous giver. For instance

1. **Some givers are like the flint:** They are hard, closed to themselves, cold like a piece of flint. On their own, they will never give: they give only when forced violently and even then, it they give, grudgingly and with sparks of anger.
2. **Other givers are like the sponge:** The sponge gives some water only if she is gently pressed and squeezed. Of its own, it will not give. It has to be coaxed and encouraged. Then, sparingly it gives its water yet, it still keeps some for itself.
3. **Other givers are like the mango tree :**
The mango tree offers its fruits to anyone who cares to pluck them. It never says no. It’s generous. It gives its fruits to friends and foes. He keeps giving all it has, until it’s over.
4. **Other Givers: are like the bubbling fountain**
It keeps flowing and flowing night and day, freely offering its crystal like and fresh water to one and all. It never stops giving. Whether people take its water or not, still it goes on and on giving. It’s giving never ends. Giving is its very life.
5. **Still some other givers are like the honeycomb:**
The honeycomb not only gives what he has, but it fills those who share of her, with sweetness and delight. It oozes out kindness, sweetness and joy.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING:

1. What is the meaning of giving?
2. What is the meaning of sharing?
3. Is there any difference between “giving” and “sharing”? Explain.

4. What is the difference between “giving” of what one has, and of what one is?
5. Do you agree with the five different kinds of givers mentioned in the story? Can you find some other types of givers? Name them.
6. Describe the traits and the qualities of the:
 - Flint givers:
 - Sponge givers:
 - Mango Tree givers:
 - Fountain givers:
 - Honeycomb givers:
7. In your life experience, have you come across people portrayed in those different types of givers? Give instances.
8. What sort of giver are you? What makes you say so?
9. Explain the following sentences:
 - “Sharing is better than giving, because the gift without the giver is bare.”
 - We are not to be ‘storing tanks’ but ‘running channels’ of love.
 - “Give till it hurts”
 - Do not give of your abundance only, but of your penury.”
10. Search in the Gospel narratives for people belonging to the different categories of givers. What sort of giver Jesus was? Explain.

BIBLE TEXTS BEARING ON THE SUBJECT OF GIVING

Mt 2/9-11	Magi. Offering their best gifts to Jesus
Mt 5/28-42	About Revenge. Give to your enemies with love.
Mt 6/1-4	How to give. With love and in private.
Mt 7/1-6	Judging others. God will apply the same measure to you
Mt 7/12	Do to others, as you would like them, do to you.
Mt 10/5-10	Mission of the 12 disciples. Give freely.
Mt 10/40-42	Rewards for giving.
Mt 12/33-35	You will know a tree by the fruits it gives.
Mt 14/13-21	Feeding the Five thousand. They gave all he had.
Mt 18/21-35	Give, forgive your debts. Unforgiving servant.
Mt 26/26-29	Last Supper. Jesus gives us himself in the Eucharist.
Mk 10/26-29	The Rich Young Man cannot give...
Mk 12/41-44	The Widow’s mite, She gives all she has.
Lk 3/10-14	John Baptist’s teaching.
Lk 5/27-28	The call of Mathew. Gives up everything.
Lk 6/38	God will use to measure us, the measure with which, we measure others.
Lk 12/13-21	The parable of the Rich Fool. Lost everything.
Lk 12/32-34	Riches in heaven. Give all you have on earth.
Lk 16/19-31	Parable of the Rich man and Lazarus.
Lk 19/1-10	Zacchaeus Gives half of all he has.
Acts 2/43-47	Life of the First Christians. Sharing all they had.
Acts 5/1-13	Ananias and Sapphire. Punished because of their stringiness.