



SIEBENQUELL

It's in my hands now.



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»Give, and it will be given to you.

They will pour into your lap a good measure - pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.«

Lk 6, 38

Imagine that you enter an ice cream parlour and the man behind the counter offers you the following deal. He places ten spoons in front of you, the smallest the size of an Espresso spoon and the largest the size of a spade from the garden. You may choose one of these spoons to scoop one ball of ice cream. The measure lies in your hands.

However, there is one condition attached to this deal. You must first grant the portion size you have chosen to a person whom you barely stand, or maybe not stand at all. The measure still lies in your hands. Yet, what do you choose now?

This is precisely what Jesus is offering us, the chance to take the measure into our own hands. We can determine how much fullness, life joy and love will be given to us. Yet, there is still this one condition. I must grant the same measure to others. Before I place my hand on the measure, I need to clarify what I really want. Do I still want the fullness of life, even if others will also receive this fullness? Or do I want to prevent others from receiving this fullness, even if I have to give up my own fullness because of it?

How often we do this! There are moments when we consciously take loss into account for ourselves so that another is forced to suffer. There are occasions when we refuse life for ourselves in order to prevent another from coming into their fullness.

In a street in Düsseldorf there stands an old house with a blessing painted on the front wall. »Wish me whatever you will, and may grant you twice that!« The cunning of this blessing reminds me of a story in which we are cured of the illusion that we will ever choose fullness if we cannot grant to others.

There were once two neighbours who could not abide one another in any way. Unfortunately, their lands bordered directly on each other. Thus, everyday it came to loud and violent quarrels. Each day the two combatants met at the fence and horribly cursed each other. Often they even came to blows.

One day, even God had enough and he sent an angel to one of the two neighbours with an extraordinary offer. The messenger of God said, »Your quarrel displeases the Lord and disturbs even the peace of heaven. God wishes, that you be the one to end this quarrel. Therefore he will grant you one wish. You can wish for whatever your heart desires, money, women, power, possessions, land or fame. However, there is one condition. Whatever you wish for, God will grant your neighbour the same, but twofold!«

»Does this mean«, asked the neighbour, »that if I wish for one million pieces of gold, my neighbour will received two million?« »That is precisely what it means«, answered the angel.

The neighbour then said, »In that case, I wish to go blind in one eye!«

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