

## Unrecorded Words of Jesus

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35

One may look forever in vain to find this saying of Jesus in the Gospel records and no Bible scholar has ever made any attempt at defending its existence there. However, it is – by inspiration – recorded by Luke that Paul made this statement to the Ephesian elders. Further, in the context, it is obvious that the Ephesian elders (1) were familiar with the statement, (2) that the statement was made by Jesus and (3) that Paul’s encouragement to “remember” the statement was expected to elicit a personal knowledge of what was stated and Who stated it and even, perhaps, why it was stated. Therefore, that Jesus actually said “It is more blessed to give than to receive” is not in question for a Bible believer.

It is often the fact that, because it is not recorded in the Gospels, this seems to be an issue for some Bible readers. It should not! John, in his Gospel, makes it clear that the record he penned by inspiration did not contain all that could be written of what transpired in Jesus short time on the earth.

“And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.” John 21:25

Further, as is the case with all of God’s Revelation, we have been blessed with a record of what we need, not necessarily all of what we might want (cf. Deuteronomy 29:29; 1 John 3:2).

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Chris, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:30-31

Therefore, because the inspired Apostle Paul, as recorded by the inspired writer, Luke, records a statement that is not found in the Gospels should not be cause for alarm or concern but, instead, be cause for rejoicing and gratitude that God was so loving as to give us yet one more pearl of great price from our Lord Jesus. And, one might further note, there are events, statements and miracles that one Gospel writer records and another does not and, oddly, no one seems to be concerned about that. It is flawed thinking to assert that only the Gospels have the integrity to reveal Christ’s activities, words or signs.

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