



## Sermon Notes

For your convenience, we have included a possible sermon series for your use while involved in the Shoes4Unity Program.

Feel free to use one or all of the following during your services.

2900 Lebanon Road  
Suite 210  
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Sermon 1

### **Beneficial Giving**

Rev Cherie Larkin  
First Church Unity, Nashville TN

*Give and it will be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38*

### **The heart that gives gathers. Marianne Moore**

With a humble heart, I give and receive love.

When Jesus saw the merchants in the market place, he observed the ones who gave to their customers generously, prospered. Those who took the grain to be purchased and poured it into their customer's bag with a full measure, tapped it down and shook it, and added a little more on top until it was running over...prospered. Those who poured the grain into the customer's bag and, in a fast-handed kind of way, charged the customer for a full measure while only delivering a partial measure...did not prosper.

Whatever you think about Jesus, he knew what he was talking about when it came to stating spiritual law. We know clearly that he did not come to found a religion; but to share a way to live - to live happily, successfully, and prosperously. He said, "I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly." In other words, he taught not merely a way to be good, moral, honest and industrious, but a way to live by spiritual law that brings satisfaction, well being, and success. And the spiritual law he taught was give - and give first. If you want to get anything - give first.

Maybe this sounds impractical to you. But try it out. You'll get results. Giving first will never fail you. On the contrary, it activates spiritual law. Why? Because there is just one maker of law in the universe and that is the power we call God, and that power made the law of giving and receiving. Give the best you have and look for the best in return. Right where you are now, you can begin to give something good, something extra, something of yourself. "Prove me now," says God, "whether I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing greater than you are able to receive." The only condition is that we "give first" -that's all.

In Shoes4Unity we have just such an opportunity to give first. An opportunity to increase the impact of our giving. Shoes4Unity is an innovative spiritual social action program touching lives in our own community and around the world. Our Association of Unity Churches International has partnered with Soles4Souls in an effort to raise 525,600 pairs of shoes to deliver to people in need around the world. Shoes are a simple and important basic need that many of us take for granted. It is estimated that more than 1.5 billion pairs of shoes lay idle in American closets. Over 300 million children around the world are without shoes. Sponsoring 525,600 pairs, we can deliver one pair of shoes per minute in 2010 to people in need around the world!

**Story:** Meet Ana. Ana is a second grader who lives with her family in the South Bronx, New York (America's lowest income district). She came with 450 classmates to a Soles4Souls/World Vision event and left with a new pair of shoes and a wide grin. "Now I'm ready to go back to school!"

A pair of shoes can help eliminate the stigma of poverty. Shoes protect from puncture wounds and other injuries, and help reduce disease by stopping the spread of bacteria into the dwellings of the world's poorest people. Through our program, Shoes4Unity, you can sponsor a person, a family, a school, or an entire village and give them the shoes they need. It' is meaningful and important service at its finest.

Creating an abundant world that works for everyone is not about "What's in it for me" but "What's in it from me." This is beneficial giving. This is the attitude of consciousness that will produce abundance in your heart and in your life. The love of God flows easily and joyfully through you as you help someone who needs assistance. Kindness begets kindness. Jesus' mission was not one of personal glory or recognition; it was a mission of teaching the love of God and how we can express and experience this love. Give and you help lift up the souls of the world and nothing less. Give and you'll lift yourself out of your troubles, no matter what they seem to be or how deeply you seem to be sunk in them.

Love has entered this moment and today I am extending its call to action. Spiritual action. Humanitarian action. A call to serve with faith and commitment . A call to use your resources, prayers and passion to create something truly spectacular. Get on board with our efforts by becoming a sponsor. You'll not only be changing lives minute by minute, but you will be blessing our ministry and our Association of Unity Churches International as we further our mission to create a world that works for all.



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Sermon 2

### **Compassionate Giving**

Rev Cherie Larkin  
First Church Unity, Nashville TN

*You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. John 13:13-15*

*The best sermons are lived not preached. Cowboy wisdom*

*I express compassion and understanding for others.*

Jesus epitomized compassion for others. His love transcended economic status, religious preference, and political jurisdiction. Jesus expressed divine love toward all people and encouraged them to do the same. He was a person of innate kindness and compassion. When a woman touched the hem of his garment, he stopped to find out who reached out to him and he ministered to her. He tended to all who sought his help.

How can we express such kindness and attentiveness to others? Like affirmative prayer and meditation, service is also a spiritual practice. It's a practice that affects us on the inside, helping to form our inner selves into conduits for the Christ. We don't just do things to help people, we serve because in doing so, we take our place side-by-side with the human family. We become the kinds of people who are clear channels for the Christ presence, for love. And in a complex world, appearances can sometimes make it difficult to recognize the love of God that is within every situation. But even where hardship is apparent, we know that divine love is present. "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

We know there are resources to be shared and prosperity to be experienced by all. The love of God is in action working through every situation and condition to bring about the right outcomes in the right way and time. And it is we who can open ourselves to ways in which we can be a blessing to others. We arrive at this level of soul service to others through what is often referred to as a process of "awakening" and along the way we look for tools to assist us. Shoes4Unity is such a tool. It helps us own our truth and take our place as facilitators of love.

In Shoes4Unity we have an opportunity for compassionate service; an opportunity to increase the impact of our giving and to extend its reach. Shoes4Unity is an innovative spiritual social action program touching lives in our own community and around the world. Our Association of Unity Churches International has partnered with Soles4Souls in an effort to raise 525,600 pairs of shoes to deliver to people in need around the world. Shoes are a simple and important basic need that many of us take for granted. It is estimated that more than 1.5 billion pairs of shoes lay idle in American closets. Over 300 million children around the world are without shoes. Sponsoring 525,600 pairs, we can deliver one pair of shoes per minute in 2010 to people in need around the world!

**Story:** Meet Roberto. Roberto is 10 and lives with his uncle's family in the City Dump outside Tegucigalpa. Each day he gets up at dawn and sorts through the trash looking for items that he can clean up and sell, or for suitable things to eat. "This is my first pair of real cowboy boots," he repeatedly said, after a visit from Soles4Souls.

A seemingly small gesture of kindness, like the gift of shoes, has the power to transform a person's outlook and emotions. Understanding, kindness, giving, sharing – these are divine qualities that help us contribute to a happier, more wholesome world. Our actions can revitalize, empower and support others during pivotal times in their lives.

A pair of shoes can help eliminate the stigma of poverty, protect from puncture wounds and other injuries, and help reduce disease by stopping the spread of bacteria into the dwellings of the world's poorest people. You can sponsor a person, a family, a school, or an entire village and give them the shoes they need. It is compassionate service at its finest.

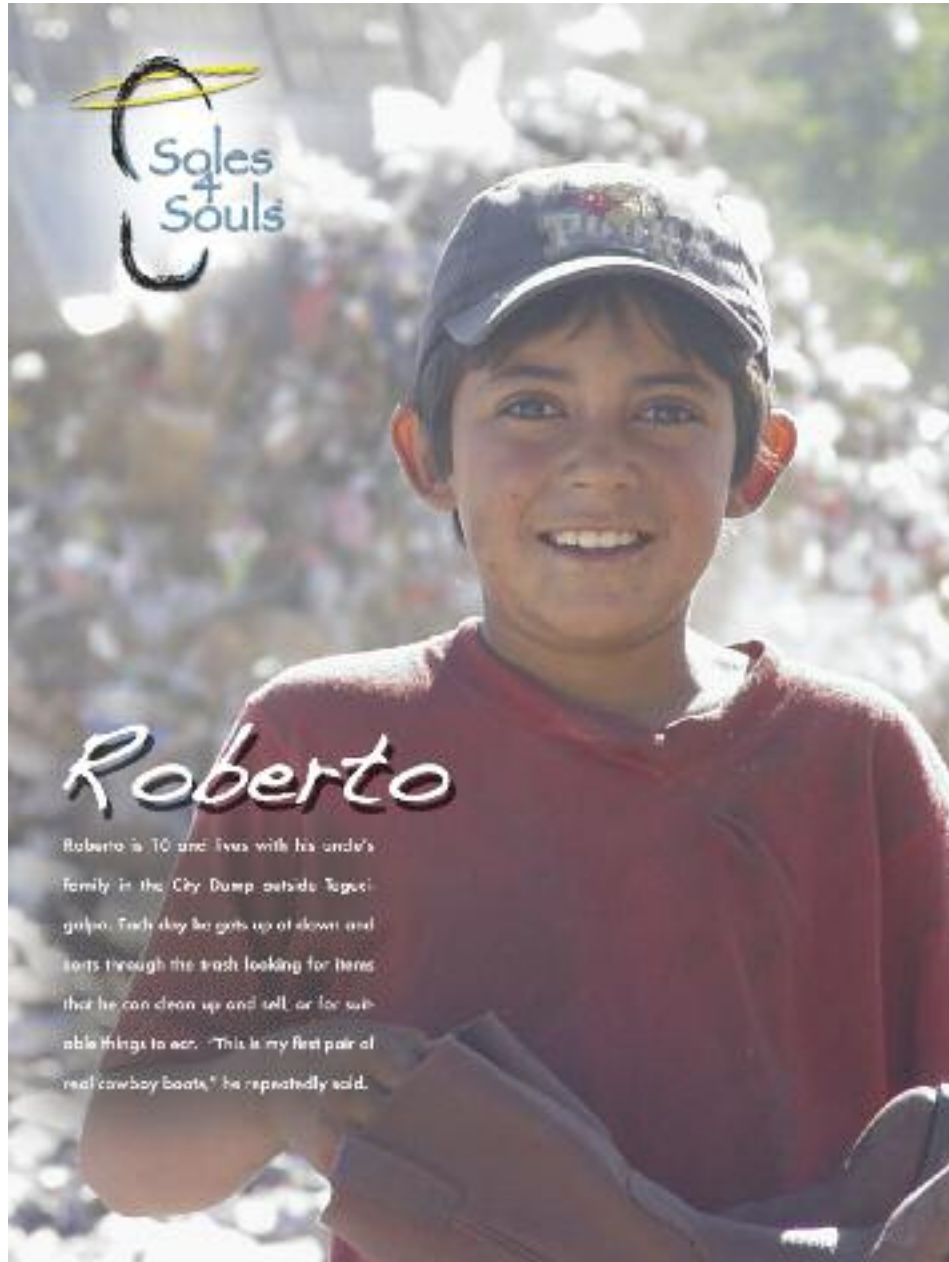
Today I am extending a call to compassionate action. Humanitarian action. Spiritual action. Get on board with our efforts. Join in our Shoes4Unity program by becoming a sponsor. You'll not only be making a change in a life minute by minute, you'll be blessing our ministry and our Association of Unity Churches International as we further our mission to create a world that works for all.

Now is the time for Unity to take its place as facilitators of love. Now is the time for Unity to demonstrate the power of spiritual service to enrich the world. Now is the time for Unity to demonstrate the power of a collective consciousness that works for the greater good of all. Now is the time to demonstrate that a group of caring individuals, rallied around a vision of good, can make a difference in the world one step of kindness at a time!



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## Roberto

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## Seed Giving

Rev Cherie Larkin

First Church Unity, Nashville TN



*Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored and you have entered into their labor." John 4:34-38*

Emerson writes in Compensation, "Men suffer all their life long under the foolish superstition that they can be cheated. But it is impossible for a man to be cheated by anyone but himself.... There is a third silent party to all our bargains. The nature and soul of things takes on itself the guaranty of the fulfillment of every contract, so that honest service cannot come to loss. If you serve an ungrateful master, serve him the more. Put God in your debt. Every stroke shall be repaid. The longer the payment is withholden, the better for you; for compound interest on compound interest is the rate and usage of this exchequer."

Emerson says elsewhere in effect that "the good man cannot escape his good." In the 3rd chapter of Proverbs, Solomon bears witness, "he blesses the good man's dwelling," and "wise men come to honor." In the 11th chapter "the path of a right-minded man is cleared by his own goodness."

Quotations like these could be multiplied almost endlessly. Moses said the same thing, as did Isaiah. So did the ancient writers of the Vedas, and Confucius, and Lao-tse. A Course in Miracles reads, "The son of man is generous out of self interest." In one form or another all the sages of all the ages have told us that reward comes from doing good.

Yet, some people have not yet entered into this belief. They say they do not see any reward from their good work. This is often because they look for some immediate return from the person or persons who receive the benefit of their acts. They take too narrow a view. They forget about the "bread cast upon the waters." They overlook the dollars and cents value of reputation, repeat business, of the satisfied customer, of commercial credit.

Many people give in one place and expect to receive back from that same place an equivalent benefit (or more). But we reap in fields where we have not sown. Very seldom does the return come from the person you have benefited, or on the day of the benefit, or in the same form as the good deed. You may give and give and give to a child, a spouse, a parent, an employer and expect a big return for all your good effort...but your good rarely comes from the place of your giving. If you hold an expectation to receive from the person to whom you have given, you could be waiting for a very long time. And, your focus could cause you to miss the good that is at hand tapping you on the shoulder. We are told to lift up our eyes and see how the fields are already white for the harvest.

Your good comes from God, the unlimited source of all potentiality and possibility. And it is time to open yourself to this expanded vision. Your good will come to you, and your good will come in great measure. It's the law. But your joy is to sow the seed you have to give, right now, right where you are. Offer your love, service, time, talent, money to the situation that shows up in front of you needing you. "Trust in the Lord and do good" today; and tomorrow in some emergency your path will be directed in beauty and order. If you are merely kind today; tomorrow someone will do you a special favor that more than balances the scales; if not tomorrow, maybe next week; maybe next year. You will reap in fields where you have not sown. "In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening withhold not your hand; for you know not which shall prosper, whether this or that, or whether they both shall be good."

In Shoes4Unity we have an opportunity to sow seeds of goodness. An opportunity to become gardeners in the fields of love Shoes4Unity is an innovative spiritual social action program touching lives in our own community and around the world. Our Association of Unity Churches International has partnered with Soles4Souls in an effort to raise 525,600 pairs of shoes to deliver to people in need around the world. Shoes are a simple and important basic need that many of us take for granted. It is estimated that more than 1.5 billion pairs of shoes lay idle in American closets. Over 300 million children around the world are without shoes. Sponsoring 525,600 pairs, we can deliver a pair of shoes per minute in 2010!

**Story:** Meet Rafael. Rafael is 3 and has never owned a pair of shoes, just like his 5 brothers and sisters. His mother, who lives alone with the children outside the Tegucigalpa City Dump, said she is happy her children will be able to walk to school three miles down the dirt road more safely. (Honduras has a high prevalence rate of Hookworm infection, and many children like Rafael are at direct risk for infection.) Rafael received a new pair of shoes on a Soles4Souls distribution trip.

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With your resources, prayers and passion you can sponsor a child, a family, a school, or an entire village and give them the shoes they need. A pair of shoes can help eliminate the stigma of poverty, protect from puncture wounds and other injuries, and help reduce disease by stopping the spread of bacteria into the dwellings of the world's poorest people. It is important spiritual service at its finest.

Your good work makes a direct connection of love. It reaches deep into the soils of love and activates Spirit. It activates a flow of good out from you and creates a harvest of good to flow back to you in the time, place, and form that is highest and happiest and most satisfying to you. "The path of a right-minded man is cleared by his own goodness."

Start today to open pathways of good by paving them with beautiful and meaningful service. Sow seeds of generosity, caring, goodwill, love and then lift up your eyes and see the harvest of good that is at hand.

Today I am inviting you into action. Humanitarian action. Spiritual action. Get on board with our Shoes4Unity program by becoming a sponsor. You'll not only be making a change in a life, you'll be blessing our own ministry and our Association of Unity Churches International as we further our mission and vision.

If you want your good to be a steady inflowing stream you must keep on doing good steadily. Giving, sharing, and caring bring a marvelous return even during economic downturns. In the bright lexicon of Truth there is no such word as depression! God's standard of reward is "abundantly above all that we ask or think." Spiritual reward? Certainly. That's the best part. But when you sow seeds of giving you reap abundant, delicious fruit with "all these things...added."



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## Shoes4Unity Inspirational Quotes

I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. *Helen Keller*

The heart that gives, gathers. *Marianne Moore*

The service of man is the only means by which you can serve God. *Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

To often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the power to turn a life around. *Leo Buscaglia*

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. *Mahatma Gandhi*

It is one of the most beautiful compensations in life...that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Prayer in action is love. Love in action is service. *Mother Teresa*

The body has to be utilized for service to others. More bliss can be got from serving others than from merely serving oneself. *Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

Throw your heart over the fence and the rest will follow. *Norman Vincent Peale*

Courage does not always roar. Sometimes it is a quiet voice at the end of the day, saying..."I will try again tomorrow." *Mary Anne Radmacher*

The best sermons are lived not preached. *Cowboy Wisdom*

Every act reveals God and expands His Being. I know that may be hard to comprehend. All creatures are doing their best to help God in His Birth of Himself. *Meister Eckhart*

Don't forget love, it will bring all the madness you need to furl yourself across the universe. *Mira*

Service springs out of LOVE and it scatters LOVE in profusion. *Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. *Tenneva Jordan*

There is a hidden love-center in human beings that you will discover and savor and nourish yourself with. That will be your food. *Rumi*

I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures. *Lao-Tse*

Be not simply good; be good for something. *Henry David Thoreau*

Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity. *Buddha*

It is high time that the ideal of success should be replaced by the ideal of service. *Albert Einstein*

You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result. *Mohandas K. Gandhi*

What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others. *Pericles*

It is your destiny to see as God sees, to know as God knows, to feel as God feels. *Meister Eckhart*

Give light, and the darkness will disappear of itself. *Desiderius Erasmus*

Only passions, great passions can elevate the soul to great things. *Denis Diderot*

Love is the birthright of every person; it is what we are here on earth for. *Mother Teresa*

Keep fresh before me the moments of my high resolve. *Howard Thurman*

Our challenge is to see beyond the world and to invoke new beginnings. *Marianne Williamson*



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