Lay reader talk (week 1)

# Receiving God’s Blessings

There is a story about an orchestra leader who insisted upon perfection. When the goal was not achieved, he would throw whatever he could find at the musicians who had played a wrong note, came in too early, or held a note too long. Once, when someone made a mistake, he couldn’t find anything to throw, so he took off his watch and threw it. The watch was broken into many pieces. A few days later some musicians presented the orchestra leader with two new watches. One watch was of great value and engraved beautifully in gold. The other watch was of inferior quality and on it was inscribed, “For rehearsals only.”

In many ways, the life we live today could be considered our rehearsal for our eternal life to come. As we attempt through faith to serve our Lord in this life, how fortunate we are that our heavenly Father doesn’t throw things. We are fortunate because we know that because of our disobedience and sinfulness, we deserve to have things thrown at us.

God chooses to bless us so we can be a blessing to others. We are to use our time, talents, and money to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to lead the blind, and to help the needy. However, instead of using our lives and gifts in ways that honor the Lord, we become self-centered people who often only give a token response to those in need around us.

God chooses not to throw things at us as the orchestra leader did to his orchestra for doing something wrong. Instead, He forgives us for our failures, sets us back on His path, and gives us more opportunities to serve Him. When we give our time, talents, and money, God will bless us. In our giving, Jesus said, *“For with the measure you use, it will be given to you”* (Luke 6:38). When we honor the Lord through sharing His blessings to us with others, He will throw His blessings at us, and we need to thank God that, when He throws His blessings at us, His aim is perfect.