

Dr. Ron Armstrong • September 27, 2020

**The Story: Givers, Takers, and Better Friends**

**Number 11:10** Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The Lord became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. **11** He asked the Lord, “Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? **12** Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors? **13** Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ **14** I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. **15** If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin.”

**16** The Lord said to Moses: “Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. **17** I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.

**A. Moses is fed up. To understand why, we need to review “givers” and “takers.”**

1. We aren't always givers and we aren't always takers; we're usually both. Either one can become a habit.
2. Both givers and takers give, but the math is different. Here are the equations:

The giver gives	<b>IF</b>	the benefit to others	>	the cost to the giver
The taker	<b>IF</b>	the benefit to	>	the cost to

gives
the taker
the taker

3. Takers aren't all mean, grumpy, and demanding.

	Agreeable	Disagreeable
Giver	1	2
Taker	3	4

4. Goal: Be the box 1 giver.
  - a. God loves this behavior.
  - b. Grown-ups know that's where the joy is.
  - c. The irony is that, in the end, the givers get more than the takers.

**B. What was God's prescription for Moses' problem?**

1. Choose good friends.
  - a. Good friends will help you become less reactive. Bad friends pile on.
  - b. Good friends tell us what we need to hear. Bad ones? What we want to hear.
2. Let them help you. You'd be surprised how many people:
  - a. Are unwilling to accept help.
  - b. Are unwilling to listen to a different opinion.
  - c. Think they know the end of the story.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.