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1971 Central High School Assembly Address

Oral Roberts

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Good morning, everyone. Thank you for the very nice introduction. When I hear such nice things said I remember a man who really put me in my place one day. I was eating a meal, just prior to speaking at a certain place and I didn't really want to visit with anyone because I had my mind on my subject and this fellow sat down on a stool by me there in the restaurant and finally looked around and didn't know for sure if he recognized me. And finally he said, Sir, if I didn't know any better I would think you were Oral Roberts. So I didn't reply because I didn't want to get drawn into the conversation at that time. He said, Yeah, if I didn't know better I'd think you were Oral Roberts. And so he finished, went up and paid for his meal and came back, said, Well, Mister, it's better to be thought of as somebody great than nobody at all. It's really nice to be at Central High School, the mother high school, and to be here where so much action has been taking place. It was great last year to see some of the basketball games and to see Central win the state tournament again and I understand Coach Howard and young Mr. Henry Johnson and the troop plan the same thing this year, yes sir. I am going to be in there rooting for that. Standing up here this morning to share with you for a few minutes, I am reminded of my warm friend Billy Graham who dedicated ORU back in 1967. Billy was holding a great crusade in one of the big cities of America. One day he walked downtown to mail a letter, could not find the postoffice so he stopped a young man and said, Young man, could you tell me where the postoffice is? And he said, Why sure. And he pointed it out and Billy said, Thank you, young man. Come on down to my crusade tonight and I'll tell you how to get to heaven. He said, Go on, Mister, you don't even know the way to the postoffice. And when I stand up here to talk to young people and I recall when I was a teenager, my children say, Dad, that was away back in the Dark Ages, but I am really proud to be here and hope that we can share together something today that will be meaningful to you as long as you live. I submit to you today three key
principles, three key principles of the miracle of seed faith. Our Master said, If you have faith as a seed that you plant, you can say to this mountain, be thou removed, and it will obey you. Now the mountain refers to a problem or a need a human being faces. And our Lord said, If you can have faith as a mustard seed or as a seed you plant, you can speak to this problem, you can speak to this need and it will be removed. There's great power there. Someone said, Everybody has a problem, or he is a problem, or he lives with one. He either has a need, or he's just had one and is going to have another, and one thing we learn as we go through life, we have needs and problems. And everybody's problem is more serious to him than the other fellow's problem. And I've learned one thing about that, that God is at the point of your need. Mahat Mighandí once said that not even God would dare to appear to a hungry man except in the form of bread. I'm afraid that we in the church sometimes have so much rhetoric about God, say so many words that we obscure who He is, and we don't relate Him to the point of the need of a human being. When we were in Israel with the World Action Singers, we were received by former Prime Minister Bengurion, down in the deserts below Beersheba. And we said to him, Mr. Bengurion, what is the greatest truth, in your opinion, in the Bible? Mr. Bengurion thought it over and said to the group, well I think the greatest truth is in the book of Genesis where it is said, And God made him man. He said, Before man was Jew, or Gentile, before he was white or red or yellow, brown or black, before he was Russian or German or Japanese or Chinese or American or Israeli or Arab, he was man. He was a human being. And he said, That's what we must recapture, that every person is a human being first. Now as a human being we have problems with one another. And the three key principles of seed faith are these: First, you must have a source for your life, an ultimate source to which you look. And that source is God. All other people and things are instrumentalities, none of them are sources, only God is source. Second key principle is what our Lord said in St. Luke 6:38, Give and it
shall be given to you. It is more blessed to give than it is to receive, more productive because what you give is a seed that you plant. And only what you give is multiplied back in the form of your need. The second key principle is, give and it shall be given to you and always give first. And the third key principle is, expect a miracle. I've never met a human being that did not want a miracle. He wanted something to happen instantaneously, something to solve every problem he faced and to do it instantly. What he doesn't always realize is that miracles must be made to happen. Miracles don't just happen. They are not magic. Miracles must be made to happen. And first, God is my source. Second, give and it shall be given to me. Third, expect a miracle. Now how different that is to the way you and I are reared in our homes, how our society treats us and tells us what to do. If I don't get to you first, you are going to get to me. We always have our hand out. We want the other person to smile first, to be friendly first. You show me a marriage that's breaking up and I'll show you somebody that's not giving first. They want the other one to give. You show me young people whose friendship is breaking up and I'll show you somebody who wants to get, who has no concern of the other person as a human being and who refuses to give first. Show me any problem in life, any problem you are facing or I'm facing and it's here at one of these three points that you find first the problem and second you find the answer. And everybody is either a part of the problem or he's a part of the answer. There's no middle ground. I heard about a man who was an antique dealer and wherever he traveled he always tried to pick up bargains and antiques. He often found that people didn't know what these valuable things were worth and he would pick them up for little of nothing. And he came to this little town and went into a secondhand store and the first thing he noticed was a beautiful cat right out in the middle of the floor drinking milk from a bowl. Well he stood there watching and as he watched he realized that the bowl from which the cat was drinking was no ordinary bowl. It was a very rare expensive antique.
And guess what the first thought was that passed through his mind? The man that runs this store doesn't know what that bowl is worth. He doesn't know it's an antique. I'll buy this for little of nothing. So he steps up with this approach, he says, Mister, I notice this beautiful cat and I've been needing a cat. In fact, I've been trying to buy a cat. And I just wonder if you would sell me this cat. The merchant said, Well, I guess so, I guess I'll sell anything here in the store. And you just give me $25 and this cat is yours. The fellow paid him, reached over, picked up the cat, began to stroke him. And he said, My, this is a beautiful cat. I'm so glad you sold him to me. Then he said, By the way, I notice he was drinking milk from that old bowl down there. He's use to it and the old bowl's not worth much, I believe I'll just take this bowl with me. And the fellow said, You put that bowl back down. That bowl is the best cat seller I ever had. And let me tell you something, the longer I live the more I believe that represents the way we human beings react to one another. Someone said to me, Mister Roberts, why doesn't God stop all the wars? Why doesn't God stop all the trouble that's in the world? Well that's because God doesn't control every human being and because human beings have choice. God's not responsible for the wars, the torments and the sufferings of people. People bring those things on. Somebody wants to get to somebody. Somebody wants to steal or to kill or to destroy. Someone's trying to get to the other guy before he gets to him. And on the face of this our Lord says, Give and it shall be given to you. Out at our campus we have a young man by the name of Richard Fuqua. He's a young black from Chattanooga, Tennessee who was all-American in basketball last year in small college competition and this year as we enter NCAA in major competition there is a good chance that Richard Fuqua may become all-American on a bigtime level. But there's a story behind this young man. This young man may not put it in the words that I put it in, give and it shall be given unto you, whatever you give is a seed you plant and only what you give is multiplied back, multiplied back in
the form of your need, but this young man is a fantastic shooter. I've watched basketball all my life and I've never seen a young man that can shoot the ball so well so far. But you know what happens? Out of 15 on the varsity, guess which one is out in the gym in all of his spare time throwing the ball up and practicing? This young man practices more than all the rest of the team together. You wonder how he can shoot the ball at 30 feet and the ball go in the basket not touching anything, just swish. This young fellow has a speech impediment. This young man stammers. This young man has other handicaps. He's not one that we would expect to become an all-American, but here is a young fellow who puts seed in. He's always putting it in, not long ago out there we had a freshman girl who said, President Roberts, I'm going to flunk out, and that was only the fourth week of the semester. I said, What's the problem? She said, I don't have any time. Don't have time to get up in the morning and fix my hair, to get breakfast, to get to class. I'm going to flunk out. I said, Why don't you give God some seed time? She said, Seed what? I said, Seed time. She said, What do you mean? OK, you are out of time. When you are out of something, give some of it. When you are out of something, give some of it. The hole you give through is the hole you receive through. And God says, If you give first it will be given to you. I don't understand, she said. OK, I said, You have as much time as anybody. You have 24 hours a day. But everybody is pressed for time, why don't you give God 15 minutes extra a week? Well she said, How can I do that, I don't have enough time now. I said, Try it. Donate 15 minutes or 30 minutes to some other person who

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is out of time or to a professor who needs some help in the classroom. Well I forgot about it and two weeks later I was in our Prayer Tower where our visitors come to see our campus and I noticed that she was a guide. I said to her, Well now, this is funny. Two weeks ago you were out of time, about
to flunk out of school. Oh, she said, President Roberts, I have plenty of
time now. I said, How did it happen? She said, I began to give some of my
time and the strangest thing happened, it was like it was multiplied. I have
all the time I need. This is the one eternal law that works in the universe
for every human being. You put something in and that's what you get out, only
it's multiplied back. It's multiplied back. And whatever you do is a seed
that you plant, whether it's good or bad. It will come back bad or it will come
back good. If you give nothing and God were to multiply nothing, it's still
nothing. But whatever you put in, whatever you give in any relationship of
life, it will be given back. I know a young lady who had a very serious court­
ship going on with a young man and the young man soon realized that this girl
had strong spiritual convictions and he wanted her to enter into drugs, illicit
sex relationships and other things and she wouldn't do it. And he thought that
he could wear her down, but eventually when he saw that he wasn't getting any­
where he began to poke fun at her. And she said, You can't be serious. And
he assured her he was. And she said, Listen, I want to make something of my
life, I want to marry some day. I want to have a family. I want to build the
right kind of family. I'm not going to do these things with you, and besides,
God is my source and as he kept poking fun at her one day she said to him,
all right, if you won't go to heaven with me, I'm not going to hell with you.
And she broke off the relationship. She was very lonely after that because
she didn't have any dates. And she was tempted to change her mind, but she
still held fast. And then a young man crossed her path, the kind of young
man that she really had always wanted. Let me tell you, that thing is powerful,
because when you give you touch the power that spins the universe, the power
that scooped out the bed for the ocean, that flung the stars from His finger­
tips, that sculptured the mountains, that hung the earth on nothing, you
touched the power that we know is God and He multiplies back what you give.
A few months ago I received a call from a young man in this town who had come from California and asked for an appointment and when he came I looked in the outer office and there was a young soldier and he was on crutches. When he came in I helped him sit down and the first words he said to me, Mister Roberts, I've just come home from Vietnam and I'm not going to make it. I said, What's the matter? He said, My left shoulder was almost blown away when the shrapnel burst around me. It struck my leg, my shoulder, and my back, but the helicopters got me in time and the doctors saved my life. They shipped me back to San Francisco for recuperation. But he said, Mr. Roberts, I'm not getting well. He said, There's a pain in my back that comes down my leg and into my foot. It's there all the time. This hand and this arm have lost their feeling. This finger has been shocked, it's stiff, and he had a steel brace over the arm, over the shoulder and running down his back. He said, I'm not going to make it. Well I said, Why did you think of me? He said, I was lying on the hospital bed in San Francisco watching television, which is about all I had time for, and I saw you and I remembered as a young lad that I used to watch you and when I went to Vietnam I put God behind me and as I lay there it suddenly dawned on me I needed God and I said, Well sir, what happened to you in Vietnam? Did you pray? He said, No sir, I didn't pray. He said, I never thought about it. I said, Then you thought about it on the hospital bed? He said, Only when I realized I wasn't going to make it. Then I said, You see now you need a source for your life. Everybody must have a source or he's cut asunder from life. What's going to happen to him? Then I said, You must give. He said, I don't have anything to give. I said, I'm not talking about money, but everybody must give. He says, I'd like to ask you to have a prayer with me. I said, Fine. But I said, No medicine and no prayer is going to do this job for you until you do something yourself. He said, I don't have anything to give. I said, You are still thinking about money, aren't you? I said, Look, have you ever prayed for anyone else in your life? He said, No sir. I said, How about saying a
prayer for me? He said, You need prayer? I said, Everybody needs prayer. I said, I have a problem. He said, You have a problem? I said, Yes sir, everybody has problems. He said, I've never prayed for anybody, I don't know what to say. I said, Just put your hand on my shoulder and just talk to God in a conversational tone and just tell Him about this man that has a problem. He says, OK, and this is the gist of what he said. Lord, Oral Roberts says he has a problem. He needs help. Will you help him? Now if you had that kind of prayer in church, maybe they wouldn't think that was a very good prayer. But God who hears the heart must have thought it was a pretty good prayer. Because when he finished I said to him, Let's just clasp hands a moment and maybe take a moment in prayer and turn you around back toward God and back toward thinking of other people, thinking of giving, thinking of praying for others, and as we sat there very quietly he said, Mr. Roberts, help me, and I did. I said, Stand over there a moment, and he took two steps and then he said, Mr. Roberts, I'm going to make it, I'm going to make it. And carrying his crutches under his arms he walked out of my office. I've never seen him since that time, but he left a glow in my heart. It was not my big prayer that did this, this young man opened up inside and found an answer that he couldn't find anywhere else.

When Mary Martin was acting in South Pacific, the great play on Broadway several years ago, one night just before she went on stage a note was handed her from Oscar Hammerstein who had written the lyrics for South Pacific and on the note were these words, A bell is not a bell 'til you ring it. A song is not a song 'til you sing it. Love in your heart is not put there to stay. Love is not love 'til you give it away. After her performance that night people were so deeply moved that several rushed backstage and said, oh Mary, oh Mary, you did something to us tonight, what was it? And opening the note she read: A bell is not a bell 'til you ring it. A song is not a song 'til you sing it. Love in your heart is not put there to stay. Love is not love
until you give it away. And then brushing the tears back Mary Martin quietly
said, Tonight I gave my love away. Well here we are with our personal problems,
I mean problems as a young girl or young man or a person of my age, problems in
our town and problems in our nation and world, and we are part of the problem
or we are going to be part of the answer. And I submit God is our source. I'm
not talking now of some denomination, I'm talking about a quiet relationship
between you and your Creator and then to learn to give. And you know, it's the
hardest thing any of us ever does is to give and to give first and to give in
joy. But the Master said, Give and it shall be given to you. It's the eternal
law and finally, expect miracles. The secret of life is to expect a miracle.
Because if you don't then you enter into futility, you think nothing is ever
going to change, nothing is going to be solved. The secret of life is in ex­
pecting a miracle. But you can't get a miracle for nothing. Miracles have to
be made through faith, through giving and through expectation. And finally,
let me say something to you I hope you will remember as long as you live is
this, give God your best, then ask God for His best. Give God your best, then
ask God for His best. The greater the sacrifice the greater the blessing. In
this city there's a very important man, if I called his name most of you would
know his name because his name has been in the paper several times recently,
an outstanding coach. This man came to Tulsa two and a half years ago to
take up a program, has become fantastically successful. But the man who em­
ployed him, the man who had to make the choice, went through an experience
like I've been sharing. It was in a group meeting where there was a need one
day and he opened his bilfold and he selected the smallest bill and started
to give it, when he had an impression, Give God your best, Give Him your biggest
bill. Give this piece of money that this cause might be served by it and
then ask God for His best. There were 32 coaches who had applied for this
one job and he could only choose one man. He knew if he chose the right
man the program would be successful. If you choose the wrong one, the
program is not successful. He had this impression, Give your biggest bill, not your smallest. And he did. He said, When he put the biggest bill in he had an indescribable feeling that come over him, that he would out of these 32 applicants find the right man. Well do you know that later when this right man was hired and he came here and was successful, they were talking and the man said, You know, it's funny how I accepted your invitation. I was sitting at home one Sunday my family and I hadn't gone to church that particular Sunday, we were watching the television and he said, All of a sudden I had an urge to come to Tulsa and accept your position. And the other man said, What Sunday was that, what time was that of the day? And it turned out to be the same Sunday, the same hour of the day that this man was sitting in this group and where he gave his biggest bill. Now maybe that's an accident, maybe it would have happened anyway, but both the men are convinced that some eternal law went into effect when one man gave his best. God bless you today. God bless you personally, your dreams, your desires, may you learn as I hope to learn myself to give first and to give in joy. God bless you.
Very nice introduction. I was reminded, I was eating a meal not long ago in a restaurant down South and I was preparing to speak that night so I was paying attention to my meal and not wanting to talk and a fellow slipped in on the stool beside me and he rubberneckered around and looked at me and he said, You know, if I didn't know any better I'd think you were Oral Roberts. And I didn't say anything. He said, Yeah, if I didn't know better I'd think you were Oral Roberts. I still didn't say anything and finally he finished first, went up and paid for his meal and came back. And he said, Mister, it's better to be thought of as somebody great than nobody at all. Let me tell you, it's a real honor for me to be here today at Central, where more than 40,000 Tulsans have been graduated, where some of the great athletes of this whole state and country have been produced and the home of the champion basketball team in the state of Oklahoma last year and with Coach Howard and Henry Johnson and his troop planning the same thing for this year. I'm planning to be at some of the games at the ORU gym and it's a great pleasure to be with you and to share with you for the next few moments. My very warm friend Billy Graham, who dedicated ORU back in 1967, was holding one of his large crusades in a big American city and went downtown one day to mail a letter and he couldn't locate the postoffice. So he stopped a young fellow and said, Say, young man, could you tell me where the postoffice is? I need to mail this letter. And the boy said, Sure, Mister, and he pointed it out to him. And Billy said, Thank you. Now come on down to my crusade tonight and I'll tell you how to get to heaven. He said, Go on, Mister, you don't even know the way to the postoffice. And I think of that so much when I speak to a group of young people, because it's a little hard to remember that I was a teenager one time, to go all the way back as my four children say, Dad, back to the Dark Ages when you were a teenager, but I do think we have some things to share together today that we can remember
as long as we live. I submit to you today three key principles of seed faith. Our Lord said in St. Matthew 17:20, If you have faith as a seed, as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain be thou removed and it will obey you. The word "mountain" here speaks of a human need or problem. And someone has said, Everybody has a problem, or he is a problem or he lives with one. Somebody has said that either havea need, or you've just had one and you are going to have one again. And I believe that regardless of one's age, or where he lives, or what his condition in life is, that he has a need or a problem. And I think the most outstanding, most pressing thing that we face is personal problems, personal needs, and Christ said, If you have faith as a seed, a seed that you plant, you can speak to this problem, you can speak to this need, you can say, be thou removed, and it will obey you. Well that's a powerful statement, that if we can make our faith as a seed we plant, we must make our miracles to happen. There's some people who think that a miracle is something for nothing, that you can snap your finger and all of a sudden something miraculous can happen and it often appears to be that way. But all the miracles I've ever seen or personally known didn't just happen. Seed was planted. Something was done. An effort was made and we have to make miracles happen. I submit to you young men and women today the three key principles of seed faith. First, God is my source. Second, give and it shall be given unto you. And third, expect a miracle. I grew up down here at Ada, Oklahoma in the center of our state. We lived by an uncle, my father's older brother, who had a tremendous orchard. And he grew the beautiful Elberta peach, among other types of fruit. And every year he sold thousands and thousands of bushels of fruit. That's the way he paid for his farm and educated his children and was a relatively well-to-do man because of this great orchard. But one year the peachtrees didn't bear very well. The next year there was a smaller crop and the third and four years there was hardly anything, and then the orchard began to die out. My uncle went down to the county seat at Ada and asked the
agricultural experts to examine his orchard and they said, Mr. Roberts, you've made a fatal mistake. You've paid attention to the fruit, but none to the tree. Now plow up this orchard, put out new trees, cultivate these trees, pay attention to them, take care of them, and you won't have to worry about the fruit any longer. And I think that's the way it is in life, that if we pay attention to our relationship with God, know who our Creator is, that we will not have to be overly concerned about the fruit we produce in our lives, about the abilities that we are given. If we put God first then He's going to put us first. I have a medical friend, a woman, who is a doctor, a medical doctor in Oklahoma City, who last summer was taking a vacation up in Kansas and on one of the long highways in Western Kansas where there are few cities. She was out in the country and ran out of gasoline, and as she sat there she finally decided to flag someone down and the only one who stopped was a big gasoline truck. When this fellow rolled up in this big truck he looked out the door and said, Mam, can I help you? She said, Yes, I'm out of gas. Well what can I do for you? Well, sir, would you mind stopping in the next little town and asking a service station to send out some gasoline? He laughed and said, Mam, I have a whole tank full of gas here. How about me furnishing you some? She said, Oh I would not want to deprive you, sir, of your gasoline. He said, Mam, I have 2,000 gallons. If I let you have five gallons, I won't even miss it. So she said, OK, and he took a little hose out and put five gallons of gas in her tank and drove away. Later she said to me, Oral, I understand now what you mean by making God your source. There I was, I had run out of gasoline and here came this big gasoline truck full of gas. I took five gallons from him, it didn't diminish his supply at all. I now know what you mean by making God my Source. Second, give and it shall be given to you. Jesus said in St. Luke 6:38, Give and it shall be given unto you good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over shall men
give to your bosom. Now this is exactly opposite to the way you and I were raised, to the way you and I conduct our lives most of the time. The Master said, Give and give first. But we expect to receive first. And maybe we will give something out of that to someone else. I heard about a man who was an antique collector and whenever he made trips to various towns, especially small country towns, he was always on the lookout for antiques which he could pick up at a bargain. He was in this little town walking down the street and he came to a secondhand store and looked in and right out in the middle of the floor was a cat and the cat was drinking milk out of a bowl. He stood there watching for a few moments and decided to get a little closer and when he did he realized that bowl from which the cat was drinking was no ordinary bowl, it was a very rare expensive antique. He thought to himself, Now this old boy doesn't know that's an antique. He doesn't know what it's worth. I can buy that for a song. So he walked up to the merchant and said, Say, I've been needing a cat and in fact I've been wanting to buy a cat for a long time and I noticed your cat here and he's so beautiful, would you sell me this cat? And the merchant said, Well sure, I'll sell anything I have. You give me $25 and the cat's yours. He paid him and picked him up and began to stroke the cat and said, My, he's beautiful. Oh, by the way, Mister, I notice he was drinking milk out of this old bowl here, not worth much and he's use to it, I'll just pick it up and take it with me because the cat's use to it. The merchant said, You put that cat down, that's the best cat seller I ever had. And this is so much like us human beings. We are trying to get something for nothing. We are trying to zero in on what the other fellow has and we are afraid, we are really afraid to trust and Christ said, Give and it shall be given unto you. Give first. Why? Because what you give is a seed you plant. And if you want action, if you want action, you've got to give first. One of the best differences that you can discover between the Old Testament and the
New Testament in the Bible is at this point. In the Old Testament God was trying to teach the ownership of man. And He required the seventh day, the Sabbath, God's. He required the tenth dollar or the tithe was God's. But first He gave you seven days and you gave back the seventh or the Sabbath. He gave you ten dollars and you gave back the tenth dollar or the tithe. This was receiving and then giving. But in the New Testament when Christ came He brought a new covenant and He turned it around and said that what you give is not a debt you owe but a seed you sow. He turned it from debt paying to seed sowing and He put giving first. He says that receiving follows giving. Receiving follows giving. And a rejected opportunity to give is a lost opportunity to receive. We have two young people at ORU, well this is the third year for one and the second year for the other, who are making a tremendous contribution from a beginning of virtually nothing. One of them was named on five all-American basketball teams last year, Mr. Richard Fuqua. And as we are going into major NCAA competition this year we are hopeful that Richard might become a major NCAA all-American guard. But if you knew this young man and knew his background, you could really appreciate what Jesus is saying, Give and it shall be given to you. And everything you do is a seed you plant. It's a seed you plant and it comes back for good or it comes back for bad. Whatever you give, whatever you do is a seed and it's multiplied back. Now that's the eternal law in this universe. It's probably the only thing that stands 24 hours a day and never changes. WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP. Well Richard Fuqua has a speech impediment and when he talks he stammers quite a bit of the time. The words come tumbling out of his mouth and it's hard to understand him at times. I understand it because I once stammered when I was the same age. But Richard Fuqua came from the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee and grew up in a poor home and realized early that the talent he had he would have to do something with it and he would have to do it like he was putting seed in the ground. Do you know out of 15 on the varsity squad
there's only one boy who goes out there alone in the gym virtually every day and throws up two and three hundred balls, day after day. Here is a young man who can hit the basket from 30 feet out, 28 feet, 26 feet, and he can hit it. He averaged nearly 32 points last year and he broke the alltime state scoring record in college. He scored 60 points in one game last year. But this young man is out there putting seed in. One day I said, Richard, why are you doing this all the time? You can hit the basket, you hardly ever miss. And his peculiar way he said, Mr. Roberts, the more I put the ball up out here when I'm not playing the better it goes in when I am playing. I said to one of our freshmen this year who is a super prospect and could become an all-American if he really gets to it, I said to him, Have you noticed Richard Fuqua how he throws the ball up hundreds of times, and he's the only one who does? He said, Yeah, I noticed that. I said, What do you think about it? He said, I've never done that, I've just relied upon my ability. I can hit it well, but he said, I've been thinking about this young man Richard Fuqua and I noticed him the next day he was out there throwing the ball a hundred times. Listen, there's nothing in this world that you can have for nothing. Somebody has to put some seed in, whether it's in your spiritual life, your physical life, or your financial life, this other student is a white girl. She came to us right after she had had a terrible three year experience on drugs. And as she told her story there isn't much left to say because she went through it all. But while watching a television program one day she decided to make a change in her life and by God's help she layed the drugs down and the other things down, which were even worse than drugs, and she's at ORU. This is her second year. She stands out and yet she's not an extraordinary person. She's an ordinary girl. She has to work hard even to make her grades. Here is Richard Fuqua, he was black, and this young girl who is
white and yet they stand out because they are putting seed in. One young girl out there was out of time. She said, Mr. Roberts, or President Roberts, I'm going to flunk out of school. That was the fourth week of school. I said, What's the problem? She said, I'm out of time. I don't have time to get up and to fix my hair and to get to breakfast and to get to class. I'm going to flunk out. And I said, Why don't you give some seed time? She said, Seed what? I said, Seed time. I said, Everybody else doesn't have any time, you are not the only one who is out of time. And you have as much time as anybody, 24 hours a day. She said, What do you mean? I said, Why don't you donate 15 minutes of your time maybe on Saturday to somebody, to some student, to some professor in the class, or to somebody in this city. Donate 15 minutes of your time. She said, Well why should I do that, I don't have enough time as it is? I said, God will multiply that time back in the form of your need. God will multiply that 15 minutes back. He said, Give and it shall be given to you. Two weeks later I was over at the Prayer Tower where our visitors come and I saw her as a guide. I said, Now this is strange, two weeks ago you said you didn't have any time and now you are working part time. She smiled and said, President Roberts, I've put some seed time in. And for some reason I have all the time that I need. That's the eternal law that God placed in this universe. It's what you give that's multiplied back. But if you give nothing, you know, even if nothing were multiplied it's still nothing. Zero multiplied is still zero. When Mary Martin was on Broadway in South Pacific, one night just before she went on stage a note was handed her, it was from Oscar Hammerstein who had written the lyrics to South Pacific. And the words on that piece of paper were these: A bell is not a bell 'til you ring it. A song is not a song 'til you sing it. Love in your heart is not put there to stay. Love is not love 'til you give it away. After her performance that night people rushed backstage. Some of them said, Mary, you did something to us tonight, what was it? And opening the little piece of paper she read: A bell is not a bell 'til
you ring it. A song is not a song 'till you sing it. Love in your heart is not put there to stay. Love is not love 'till you give it away. And brushing the tears away Mary Martin said, Tonight I gave my love away. A young woman said to me, Mr. Roberts, my boyfriend has been giving me a hard time. And I said, What do you mean? She said, Well, I've been wanting to give my life to God and when I marry to raise a family and to be the kind of person that I should be, but he's offered me all kinds of propositions with drugs, illicit sex and things of this nature and I always just passed it off. I knew that underneath he was a fine young man and all these were temptations, but eventually I couldn't pass him off. He had me on the critical angle and then when he saw that I really was serious about my religious convictions he began to poke fun at me. I said, You are not serious. And he said, I certainly am. And she said, This continued a while and finally one day when he put the pressure on me to give all this up I said to him, OK, Jim, if you won't go to heaven with me, I'm not going to hell with you. And she said, I walked away. I wondered if I would ever have another boyfriend, but it's funny, something happened. It was like a miracle. The young man I have now dreams the same dreams I dream. He thinks that getting married is a wonderful thing and having children is a wonderful thing and building a home is a wonderful thing. She said, I learned something, that there's an invisible power that works on behalf of those who have convictions and I believe that today. Finally, let me say something to you that I hope you will remember as long as you live. That's this, give God your best, then ask Him for His best. Remember, the greater the sacrifice the greater the blessing. Give God your best and ask Him for His best. A man sat down here in a church not far from this building one Sunday morning, worried about a problem in his life and as they were taking the morning offering he just automatically opened his bilfold and selected his smallest bill and he made a direct impression, Give your biggest bill. And he thought, Well if I give my biggest bill I should write a check and he asked his wife if he had a check
book, she said, no. And so there he was with a decision to make, the impression was very strong, give your biggest bill. Well the funny thing was that he was sitting there that day in church not paying attention to anything that was being said because he had a problem. He had to hire a man and 32 people had applied for the same job and he could only hire one and he knew if he hired the right man the job would grow and if he hired the wrong man the job wouldn't go and that's all he could think about, the problem he had. And now in the midst of it he had this impression, give your biggest bill. Give God your best, then ask Him for His best. He decided to do it. He took the biggest bill out of his billfold, folded it and when the ushers came by, dropped it in. And he said it was funny after I dropped it in, I had a sensation that went through me and I knew that somehow this problem would be solved and it would be worked out. If I could tell you the name of the man that he hired, most of the people in this room have heard his name, most of you have seen him either on television, it's not myself, but you've seen him on television, or somewhere else. You would know this young man who was the answer to this man's prayer and who is making that program one of the most successful in this part of the country. Give God your best. Give Him your biggest bill. Give God your best, then ask God for His best. Remember, the greater the sacrifice the greater the blessing. I salute you today. I admire you very much. I am concerned about your needs and your problems and your future and I pray that you will give God your best and then you will ask Him for His best. Thank you and God richly bless you today.