

Benefits of Giving | Planting good seeds along the way | What is important in Giving?

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is July 17th, 2021. How are you doing? Today, we will talk about giving.

When the Buddha lived in Jetavana Vihara, one day, the Buddha was walking on the street for alms. A couple offered the Buddha a bowl of rice. The Buddha said:

Plant one, harvest ten; plant ten, harvest one hundred; plant one hundred and harvest ten thousand. Because of this one bowl of rice, you will obtain limitless merits.”

After the Buddha spoke these words, he was leaving. The couple had doubts and they asked, “Buddha, we ignorant people don’t understand, how great the merit could be from only a bowl of rice?”

The Buddha explained, “have you seen the Banyan trees? One banyan tree may grow huge, and each year thousands of seeds fall from it, but at the beginning, it was just a seed.”

The Metaphor the Buddha gave simplified the meaning of giving. The couple understood and were happy.

There is another story in Buddhism about giving. Once there was a very poor woman. She was poor, but she had good root. She understood that she was poor because she did not accumulate much blessing in previous lives. One day, there was a Dharma assembly on the vulture peak, she came and offered the only two coins she had which she had cherished and kept with her in case she had nothing to eat. The venerable master read her mind and he himself provided her a big meal. The woman was joyful. After she left, she happily fell asleep under a tree.

At that time, the queen of the country just passed away not long ago, and the king was looking for a new queen. A fortune teller told the king, “There is a beggar under a tree. Her face is moisturized and shiny, with a look of merit. Even the big tree bends to shade her. That woman has merit and can be the new queen.”

The King listened to the fortune teller’s words and sent thousands of people out to welcome the woman to the palace. Seeing the woman, the King was respectful toward her.

After some time in the palace, the woman had these thoughts, “I am rich now because of the two coins I offered at the Dharma assembly. I am grateful for the sangha. She told the King that she wanted to pay back to the monks. The King agreed. The queen prepared a carriage of food and jewels, came to the Vulture Peak again, and offered these to the Sangha. This time, the venerable master remained sitting there and did not get up to bless the queen like the first time.

The queen did not understand and asked the venerable master, “In the past, I only offered two coins and you blessed me in person; Now I am offering a carriage of jewels, why do you not do the same?”

The Master then proclaimed, “In Buddha Dharma, the important is not how much you offered,

but the sincerity of the mind. In the past, when you offered the two coins, you had strong sincerity. That was beautiful. But today, you came with ego and pride in your mind, and this is the reason.”

Hearing these words, the queen was ashamed, but also joyful to be able to listen to the Dharma. She paid homage to the master and left.

Amitabha! This is today’s dharma share. There is a saying in Buddhism: how much sincerity and respect you have, how much reward you get. Everything is in our own mind. I wish everyone a joyful peaceful and meaningful day and life. Thank you everyone for being here. I will see you next time. Bye.