

## What Are the Odds?

**Did anyone watch the NCAA basketball game Monday night?** Did your team win? Going into the weekend the Odds Makers were saying that Kentucky would win. Man, did they have it wrong! Kentucky was beaten on Saturday by Wisconsin.

Since they were wrong about who would win what does that tell you about whether or not you should bet your money on the expertise of a Vegas bookie?

A lot of people did take the bet, with most losing. **\$9 Billion dollars is the amount Americans spent gambling on the NCAA Tournament this past month!** That is just the amount we spent on basketball. Consider that Americans spend millions every day playing the lottery.

Do you know what your chances of winning the lottery are? **1 in 175 million!** The odds of being struck by lightning is 1 in 3,000! So basically gambling doesn't provide us with very good odds for financial security. **Odds like that make the saying, "It's a sure bet," seem foolish!**

Let me share with you some better odds. Listen to this statement, "For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you." Luke 6:38, Living Bible

Who said that? Jesus. So let me ask you, would you rather trust a Vegas bookie with your money hoping you win or Jesus? I think the answer is obvious. If it is obvious, why is it that we put our hopes on that which is so unreliable?

Today as we take the offering we want you to give to bless others. Yet as you do that we want you to realize that God will return the blessing upon you so that you can continue to bless others. **You have God's word on that and that is a sure bet!**