

Giving All

“Ask What You Can Do for YAHUAH [God]”

I. SCRIPTURE

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men [others], to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men.

Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”¹ (Matt. 6:1-4).

II. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Are there certain events that have happened in your life that have given you a mental picture, a snapshot of a place and time that you will never forget? For example, how many here today were alive and have a mental photograph that you have captured on September 11, 2001... when the world trade center and other locations were under attack by foreign terrorists? I remember to this day; I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing.

B. APRIL 20, 1999

Does anyone here remember what happened on April 20, 1999? For me, this was the day that I first met and fell madly in love with Hydie, my lifetime sweetheart. Today, I brought one of the many pictures that I took of her on that day; I keep this particular one with me in my office. [Comment on her beauty.] To the best of memory, this was taken in a little park that was on the side of the Pasig River in the very busy city of Manila. It was close to the place where she was living at that time. Hydie will probably correct me on some of the details, about the name of the river, where the park was located exactly, or some of the other details. But,

1. Matt. 6:1-4; Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the *NKJV*.

that event and that very day is now a permanent photograph in my memory. So much has the April 20, 1999 date has been embedded in my mind as the day I first met my wife, that I had forgotten until today that it was also the very same date that back in the US, two teenage gunmen had killed 12 of their fellow students and a teacher at the Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado; many more had been injured before the gunmen committed suicide in the school library.

C. NOVEMBER 22, 1963

Is there anyone here who is old enough and can remember where you were and what you were doing on November 22, 1963? I was seven (7) years old, and sitting in the classroom, probably in the second grade. The school principal walks into the classroom and announces that our president has just been assassinated. You can probably imagine how devastating that would have been for a 7-year-old happy-go-lucky kid. All the students were sent home early that day so we could mourn the death of the 35th US President: John F Kennedy. And today, as I remember him, the words I think of most that he spoke, were given at his 1961 inauguration speech. This is what he had written down on a White House memo pad: “And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”

Nowadays, when we look at our country, our government, it seems that we are pretty much thinking the opposite, aren't we? “Ask not what I can do for my country, but what my country can do for me.” One of the most common questions about money that we are asking each other these days are, “did you get your government stimulus payment yet?” Right? These days we look to our government for protection from the COVID-19 pestilence, for stimulus money, for food, for health care, and for other things that we do need. And so, I would just have you consider this today, in all our concern for what we need, how much concern do we have for what others might need or what YAHUAH [God] desires from us?

III. **“MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE”**

Luke writes down these words of Paul in the book of Acts, “And remember the words of the Lord Jesus [ADONAI YAHUSHA], that He said, **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’.**” (Acts 20:35b). And so you'll notice, that here in the book of Acts, we have these red-letter words spoken by YAHUSHA [Jesus], provided for our consideration. And on the front of today's bulletin, we also have a mental picture of a significant event that YAHUSHA [Jesus] had witnessed one day when He was in the temple:



(Describe the photo.) This event of the widow giving her two insignificant coins to the church treasury is so significant, that it is recorded by Luke in his gospel as a lead in to the destruction of that very temple and the signs of the end times that YAHUAH [Jesus] describes, and Luke records right afterward in Luke Chapter 21:

“And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites [very small copper coins]. So He said, **‘Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God [YAH], but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had’.**” (Luke 21:1-4). By saying that she had “put in all the livelihood that she had”, it means that she put in all the money that she had to support herself, to buy her food, pay her rent, or pay for whatever other basic things that she needed to live on.

You’ll notice in the mental picture that YAHUSHA [Jesus] has provided to us, there are a couple rich church folks in the corner, probably either lawyers or teachers, and they seem to be looking down on the widow, in a judgmental way, thinking that they were much better than she was. YAHUSHA [Jesus] aptly describes them in the verses just ahead of painting this picture for us; He says, **“Beware of [these] teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. [And yet] they devour [these very] widows’ houses...”** (Luke 20:46-47).

And so these hypocrites, who should be showing compassion toward and actually using their funds and means to help the widows and orphans in their church and community, are indeed the very same people who are exploiting them instead. And as He provides us this picture of the poor widow, YAHUSHA [Jesus] says that he had just witnessed that these rich men were “putting their gifts into the treasury”. And just before that, He told us that these rich guys like to be seen and feel important. So now, I get the picture that just before she shyly went up to give her two (2) little mites, that they had just made a spectacle of how much they had just put into the church treasury.

IV. GIVE LOVINGLY & SECRETLY

In Matthew’s gospel, YAHUSHA [Jesus] tells us, **“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men [others], to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues [churches] and in the streets, that they may have glory from men [others]. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed [deed of love, from the heart] may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”** (Matt. 6:1-4).

V. CONSEQUENCES FOR BEING SELF-IMPORTANT

About these men in the temple who felt so self-important, in Luke YAHUSHA [Jesus] says that “these men will be punished most severely”. (Luke 20:47b; *NIV*). In Matthew, He says to them, and He tells you and me too... to “**Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons [and daughters] of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. [And so, He says...] for if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your [brothers and sisters] only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore, you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**” (Matthew 5:44b-48).

VI. GIVING ALL – BUILDING TREASURE IN HEAVEN RATHER HERE ON EARTH

As YAHUSHA [Jesus] paints this picture for us of the widow giving all that she had to His Father, “then [afterward] ... some [of the disciples] spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, [but] He said [to them], **‘These things which you see — the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down’.**” And sure enough, just about 43 years later, that very temple was destroyed under Roman rule. And... within that very year, probably AD 29, our Savior – in His obedience to His Father and in His love for us – He would give *all* that He had to save us. And so YAHUSHA [Jesus] gives us this beautiful picture of the widow who loved YAHUAH [God] so much that she entered the church under the judging eyes of the hypocrites there, to give Him all that she had, all of her livelihood, all of her love for and obedience to Him. This was written down by Luke in chapter 21. Then, in the very next chapter 22, YAHUSHA [Jesus] contemplates that He, too, must give all that He has, His very life for you and me. He asks His Dad, “**Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done**”. (Luke 21:42). Make no mistake, the human side of YAHUSHA [Jesus] was thinking that His Dad was asking Him to do something that He didn’t really want to do: to suffer terribly and to die so that you and I could live. But He relied on His Father’s will, as should you and I. He decided to do His Father’s will, giving His all so that “**whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life**”. (John 3:16). After He prayed, “then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” (Luke 21: 43-44).

VII. OUR SAVIOR'S CALL

And so you'll notice in today's snapshot of the widow giving up her two (2) little copper coins, *all* that she had to support herself, the things that she needed to live on... despite that she probably needed food... despite that she probably needed rent money... despite that she probably needed medical care, ... But you'll not notice that despite whatever livelihood she needed, she's looking into the distance. She's looking away from the hypocrites who seem to be cowering in a dark corner of the church. She is looking toward the Light in the distances. You'll notice that her left hand is raised and it doesn't seem to know that her right hand is giving up all her livelihood, putting those two (2) small coins into the treasury. She's probably thinking, as YAHUSHA [Jesus] would do, "**Father ... not My will, but Yours, be done**".

Then an angel is sent to her from heaven, to strengthen Her. And with worry still on her forehead about what will happen next, she drops the coins from her right hand into *His* treasury. And what she tried to do in secret, her Father sees. He see what she has done for Him. And He rewards her openly with this mental picture that is now permanently embedded on each of our minds, and on the minds of millions of others who have accepted His call: to be willing to give all of ourselves... to give all of our heart to Him. And yes, to even be willing to give all of our livelihood for the benefit of others. And as we do, He reassures us, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My daughter, My son, you do it to Me". (Matt. 25:40b).

Today, dear brothers and sister in MESSIAH {Christ}, let's commit all of our hearts, all of our thoughts and actions, and all our means to Him. Today, let's change those famous words of the late US President Kennedy... let's "ask not what God can do for us; let's ask [instead] what we can do for God". And as we give our all to Him in secret, He will strengthen us from heaven, and "**our Father who sees in secret will Himself reward each of us openly**".

And now I pray, may He richly bless you from His treasury in heaven with things eternal... as you continue to worship and study wit us today, and as you leave this place.

Amen.