

Tree of Life! Part 7: "Living to Give!"

Who came to save the world and make disciples by living out His values! *To do God's will rather than His own!* **John 4.34, 5.30, 6.38, 7.16, 8.26** *To keep God's name before them & keep them in His name!* **John 17.12, 26 18.9** *To model rightly ordered family dynamics!* **Luke 2.40ff John 2.1ff Gen 1.28 Mark 3.32-35 Luke 8.21** *To "go about" doing "substantial" good and "supernaturally" healing all who were oppressed by the devil!"* **Acts 10.38** *To win over death, demons, sickness, tragedy, personality-ies "disorder..." and everything else!* **Mult**

Have you been thinking about it...? Have you taken time for an assessment of wins versus losses? Did you engage our locker room talk? **"Full time connection to God!" Is 50.4 "Full force trust in His coaching!" v5 "Full energy effort for the win?" v6** Have you considered the option? **v11** A life of limits, vain efforts and sorrow! Are you hearing and doing something with His will or hearing only, thereby, deceiving yourself? **Jam 1.22**

Jesus... Value of "Giving!" He was the product of His Father's will and values of giving... "For God so loved us that He gave!" **'316' Gave Himself for our salvation!** **John 1.12 Galatians 1.4, 2.20 Ephesians 5.25 1Timothy 2.6 Titus 2.14 1John 5.10 Gave us His name and power... Mark 6.7, 13.34 Luke 10.1-10 Acts 4.33 Gave us gifts for our 'perfecting...' Ephesians 4.8-12 John 16.7 1Cor 12.5 Gave us a million examples of what it looks like to be an heir of God!** **Mult**
Gave us our own mind! Rom 1.22-28

What would it look like...? If we decided to become "givers," just because it was "like God?" IS He the Tree of Life we want to be like? "If you have seen Me you have seen the Father!" **John 14.9** "Be mimics of God as dear children, and walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us as an offering and sacrifice to God!" **Ephesians 5.1,2** "Be merciful as your Father is..." **Luke 6.36** "Be the children of your Father which is in heaven!" **Mt 5.45-48**

What would it look like...? If we decided to give like He did, without care of being received, reciprocated or rewarded! "He endured the contradiction of sinners!" **Hebrews 12.3** "He came to His own and His own received Him not!" **John 1.11** "It would look like loving our enemies, blessings those who curse us, giving them more than what they ask for, heaping coals of fire on their heads, doing good they cannot refute!" **Luke 6.27ff Romans 12.20 1Peter 2.12**

What would it look like...? If we gave in kind, like He did? The gifts He gave *enabled* life! "He gave gifts unto men..." **Eph 4.8-12** The gifts He gave *equalized* God's love! He gave without prejudice to the just and unjust! **Mt 5.45 Lk 6.36** His, and not His, people! **J4.10 Mt 15.24** The gifts He gave *exceeded expectations!* His life for ours! **Heb 5.9 1Pet 2.24 3.18** Peace that overcomes! **John 14.27 16.33** What if we conferred benefits like God! **1Tim 6.18** Giving as glad service to God! **2Cor 9.7**

God loves Cheerful Givers! "God loves a cheerful giver!" **2Cor 9.7** Cheerful: hilarios: merry/*propitious* giver! Propitious: Propitiation: favorable step- in, like Jesus, what He did for us! Paul quotes the Greek version of **Pr 22.8** "He that sows wicked things will reap evils and will complete the penalty of his deeds. God blesses a cheerful and liberal giver, and will complete the incompleteness of his works." **We reach to sympathize, God comforts! We step in w/a gift, He speaks of love! When partnered w/God, 'giving' does so much more – it's hilarious what He does!**

God loves Cheerful Givers! People who move to meet the necessities of life for others! “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul and didn’t consider that the things they had were solely for themselves... and great grace was on them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the prices of the things that were sold to the apostles and they made distribution to every man according to his needs.”
Acts 4.32-35

This is... Not socialism! Which *takes* from producers and equalizes positions... Artificially, legislatively, forcefully, tries to create equality... Creates entitlements and dependents!
Christianity! Receives *gifts* from the blessed to elevate the low position of the needy... Genuine, charitable, voluntary opportunities for all to give... Generates gratitude and creates a desire to become givers!

God loves Cheerful Givers! It fulfills His will that we are conformed into the image of His dear Son! “He predestined us to be conformed into the image of His dear Son so that He would be the firstborn of many! **Rom 8.29** “No greater love has a man than this, that he lays down his life for his friends! You are My friends if you do what I am saying to you!” **John 15.13,14** “Dead with Christ I now live by the very same faith as the Son of God who gave Himself for us!” **Galatians 2.20**

Jesus wasn’t alive and giving... He came alive as one of us to give... So, we can live and give... or we can be like the Tree of Life and live to give!

Isaiah 61.1-3 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on me to preach good tidings to the meek, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, the opening of the prison to those that are bound and to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD; to comfort all that mourn; to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; ***that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.***