



We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Thank you for being our Guest today!

Still Small Voice

They strike you at the heart. Your mind twists, turns, and knows it has to transform. You're challenged, provoked, and go through thought-provoking anguish. Your circumstances abound with temptations, moral dilemmas, and painful choices. You could avoid, evade, quit, or give up, but they would still be there lurking and demanding to be dealt with.

Conscience questions from the Bible are needed. They remind you who God is and who you are! What is your relationship with God like? Here are just a few Scriptures to reflect upon.

Genesis 4:7- God spoke to Cain regarding the choice to be envious, bitter and commit murder. ***"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."***

Genesis 39:9- ***"He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"*** This was Joseph's response to Potiphar's wife regarding the temptation towards adultery.

Genesis 50:20- Joseph displayed a forgiving spirit toward his brothers. ***"But Joseph said to them, do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."***

Esther 4:14- Mordecai spoke to his niece Esther in a test of faith. ***"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"***

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

TWO VIEWS OF SIN

Man calls sin an
accident: God
calls it an
abomination.

Man calls sin a
blunder: God calls
it blindness.

Man calls sin a
chance: God calls
it a choice.

Man calls sin a
defect: God calls
it a disease.

Man calls sin an
error: God calls it
enmity.

Man calls sin
fascination: God
calls it fatality.

Man calls sin
infirmity: God
calls it iniquity.

Man calls sin a
luxury: God calls
it lawlessness.

Man calls sin a
trifle: God calls it
tragedy.

Man calls sin a
mistake: God calls
it madness.

-Selected

The Fat is Mine

Jason Zuehlke

As we go through life, how do we look at what we have? Is it ALL mine because I earned or accumulated it? Do I share it because I can? How am I to use it? A question as a Christian is, "What do I give to God?"

I've started reviewing the Old Testament to get a better understanding of history and God's nature so I can better understand and apply the teachings in the New Testament. In this review I noticed that in the animal sacrifices described in Leviticus chapters 1 and 3, all the fat was to be offered to God. Leviticus 3:16 reads, ***"and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; all the fat is the Lord's."***

I started thinking about this ***"all the fat is the Lord's."*** I had just finished reading Exodus before coming to Leviticus, and I saw that God continually provided for His people. Now that He had delivered them, He asked for the fat. He allowed Aaron and His sons to have food from certain offerings, but only the substances needed and not the "extra." I learned from this that God provides for the needs of His people and asks for us to give from the abundance.

In the New Testament, we see in 1 Corinthians 16:2, ***"Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come."*** Paul instructed Christians to ***"lay by in store"*** as they had prospered, not to deprive themselves of what we needed but to give of the excess.

How hard is it to give of our extra? How much do we consider to be "extra" and available to the Lord? Christ gave us warning of not considering God in our plans. In Luke 12:16-21, He told a parable of a rich man who had a bountiful harvest but couldn't fit it all into his current storage, so he decided to build more storage space. So far in the account there is nothing negative said about having much, but we see the dangers in the next verses. The rich man decided he would store up all of his wealth for his own benefit. According to Luke 12:19, he planned, ***"And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'"***

Where was this man's thankfulness to God? What did he want to give to God in gratitude for his immeasurable blessings? He had a great abundance, far more than he would ever need, but his focus was not on God as the Giver of all blessings. He was only looking inwardly toward himself. For this reason, ***"God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'"*** (Luke 12:20).

We all need the necessities of life, but do we keep God in our hearts and give a portion of that with which we are blessed back to Him? We must remember, God knows what we need, and as His children He will look after us. Luke 12:31 says, ***"But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you."***

What will you seek after? The riches of this world or the treasures in Heaven? Don't forget to give the "fat" to God. Use what you have as a tool to serve the God Who created us and all that we have.

You have a mouth that closes and ears that do not!

WHAT HAVE YOU GIVEN UP?

Gary C. Hampton

Jesus gave up being equal to God to come to earth to live as a man, living willingly as a slave (Philippians 2:6-7). Paul explained it in simple terms when he wrote, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich”* (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Jesus gave up Heaven for me, but I fear there are times that I have given up service to Christ to fulfill selfish desires. Sleeping-in instead of attending Bible class would be an example of failure to imitate the selflessness of Christ. Another example would be participating in y hobby instead of knocking doors to extend an invitation to some spiritual gathering, or in lieu of attending myself, would be another example.

Paul saw the importance of giving up the things that mattered to him in order to pursue the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:8-11). He was willing to suffer, even to point of being killed, so that He could finish that all-important race (Acts 20:22-24). He declared, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”* (Galatians 2:20).

I need to take to heart Paul’s plea to the saints at Rome. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”*(Romans 12:1-2).

The only way to follow in the steps of the Savior is to sacrifice our desires in order to pursue the Father’s will. Each of us needs to ask ourselves, **“What have I given up?”**

This Week’s Q&A

Q: Where in the Bible do we read that God stopped dogs from barking?

A: In Exodus 11:4-7

Context: After nine plagues came upon the Egyptians, Pharaoh still refused to let the children of Israel leave Egypt. Moses warned Pharaoh of the tenth plague, which was the death of the first-born of all of Egypt, including the cattle. This plague brought forth a great cry, greater than ever heard before or would ever be heard after, yet in the Israelite camp there was such a peaceful calm that not a single dog reacted to this event! Why? This was to show the distinction God was making between Egypt and Israel.

Think only of yourself and others will soon forget you.

Attend the Services Regularly Because:

It will promote spiritual appetite, health, and growth.
It will afford an opportunity to have fellowship with kindred spirits.

It will cause others to know that you are interested in the church and right living.

It will be a demonstration of faith in God.

It will be an evidence of love for God.

It will be a good example for your family.

It will show reverence and respect for God.

-B.D.S.

Of sinful pleasures, only repentance remains.

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Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!