

i started out today writing about forgiveness. it is definitely a worthy topic. i got to one point and i wrote "you must give to receive". it was then i knew that i had to begin again. today we talk not about forgiveness, but giving and receiving.

indeed the word tells us that we must forgive to be forgiven. and forgiveness is something we all need to stand in His presence. but giving and receiving must also be emphasized. it is a fundamental law of God.

recall the story of the widow and her son before elijah. even as she was preparing their final meal to eat and die, the prophet said to feed him first. as she was obedient and gave, the barrel of meal and jar of oil was replenished even as it was consumed. (see 1 kings 17) she gave to receive.

recall the story of the loaves and fishes. a young boy gave his lunch of five loaves and two fishes and proceeded to feed a multitude with an abundance left over. (see matt 14) you just know how everyone gorges when it is free. he gave to receive.

recall the story of the widows mite as she gave to the temple. (see end of mark 12) "they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood." the Lord does not recount the end of this story but i am sure she reaped her reward. she gave to receive.

recall the story of the master who forgave a great debt. the forgiven one would not forgive his servant who was indebted to him. (see end of matt 18) he

didn't give and didn't receive.

recall the story of our Lord who sowed His life as a seed in the ground. He sowed it as a son to reap a family for God. a family beyond number. isa 9:7 "Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever". He gave to receive.

it's about giving and receiving. whether it's food or money or forgiveness or life, we have to give. yes, we even lay down our lives for Him. it may be in worship or service or even death. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." matt 16:25 it is God's eternal law of sowing and reaping. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." gal 6:7

will we receive money if we give? yes. but if that is the motive of your giving, will it recount to your profit or lost? "or what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" matt 16:26 even ministries that sow into other ministries will profit. those that get all they can and can all they get will never know true prosperity. not just prosperity in riches of this world but in the riches of God.

beloved, this world and all it's riches are quickly passing away. Jesus told us to lay up riches where

they couldn't be stolen or corrupted. they are earned now in life by our giving. giving of more than just money. they are stored in that blessed place we look forward to.

i give now to you the word of life. i cannot give you life. it can only be given by our Lord and it must be searched out diligently. but i hope to shine the way for you. i pray my life exhibits something that makes you desire it also. whether it be peace or joy or a belief that won't be shaken no matter what comes. too many christians leave an undesirable taste in others. if that be me in your case, then i urge you to look to others more worthy. this is a matter too important to let one or even more detour you. when all have failed you, He never will.

this life is temporary at best. man has always sought for longer life. more time. more everything. they have not yet realized that one must let go of life to keep it.

is everything created by God or all has all this just evolved by accident? even darwin could not explain creation away. he said "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree."

if God is real, then searching Him out must proceed all. i urge those doubters to begin their search now.

"so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us". act 17:27

linda