(22) Live, **Give,** Grow, Go

GIVE Anyway

Recapping: How We Misunderstand GIVE

* Trying to do things in our own strength
* Judging the Worthiness of Opportunities or People we GIVE To…
  + **Today, I want to go deeper in with this thought…**

**I want you to think differently about the connotations of this word *GIVE*…**

**GIVE is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**All the times Jesus GIVES in Ways That Challenge Our Agenda & What We Value**

* **Little Children**

**Mark 10:13-16**

**13**People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them**, but the disciples rebuked them. 14When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.** He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **15**Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” **16**And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

* **Blind Beggars**

**Luke 18:35-41**

**35**As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. **36**Now hearing a crowd going by, he *began* to inquire what this was.**37**They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. **38**And he called out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” **39Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet;** but he kept crying out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” **40And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him;** and when he came near, He questioned him, **41**“What do you want Me to do for you?” And he said, “Lord, *I want* to regain my sight!” **42**And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.”

* **The Man Left for Dead** 
  + **(Luke 10:30:37)**
  + The Greatest Commandments…
  + Religious – Too Busy being religious, spiritual, focused on their walk to GIVE
    - Priest, Levite
  + (v37) “Go and do the same”

**To Say Nothing of…**

* Feeding the 5,000 **Matthew 14** (“They don’t need to go away, You Give them something to Eat…”)
* The 10 Lepers **Luke 17** (Only one thanked him…)
* The 5-Time Divorcee Living With Her Boyfriend **John 4** (Why is He Talking to Her?)
* The Woman with the Issue of Blood **Luke 8** (Afraid to even touch Him…)
* The Loose Woman **Luke 7** (“How could He touch her…)
* The Gentiles SyroPhoenician Woman **Matthew 15** (This isn’t part of my job…)
* **Messy, Inconvenient, Needy People, Pain in the Rear, Ungrateful people, People that don’t know, or maybe even don’t care what it costs you to Give…**

**This Is Why I’m So Hardcore About Life Groups Being “Open”**

* **“Open” vs. “Closed” Issue**
  + Yes, Needy People are Difficult….
  + Yes, It Disrupts Comfort and Intimacy Which Are Very Helpful and Encouraging…
  + Yes, Boundaries are Wise and Good…
  + Yes, I have Other Important Spiritual Things to Attend to…
    - All these things the Priest and the Levite Thought Too…
  + **But there’s more to it than that…**

**Why Do We Get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Worn Out / Burnt Out in GIVE?**

**Because We Try to GIVE From Our Human Resource or Ability – We Come Up Against the ard Truth That We Are Not and Will Never Be Enough – Even for One Person’s Needs…**

* We Are Trying To Do Only What God Can do…Allowing Jesus to GIVE through us…
* When We Do That, We are GIVING to GET…Not Giving Freely, Abandoned Giving…
* **And We Will Crash Hard, Again and Again…**
  + Because Our Resources Are Terribly Limited
  + Because We Still Haven’t Given Up Our Lives to Be Used By Him & His Agenda
* **Mother Teresa Understood…**

“People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.  **Forgive them anyway.** If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.  **Be kind anyway.** The good you do today, will often be forgotten.  **Do good anyway.** Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.  **Give your best anyway**.

In the final analysis, **it is between you and God.** It was never between you and them anyway.”

**Matthew 25:31-46**

**31**“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32**All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33**He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. **34**“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. **35**For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36**I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

**37**“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38**When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39**When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ **40**“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

**41**“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42**For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43**I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ **44**“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ **45**“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ **46**“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”