

the Cross



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taking up THE CROSS - DYING TO SELFISHNESS

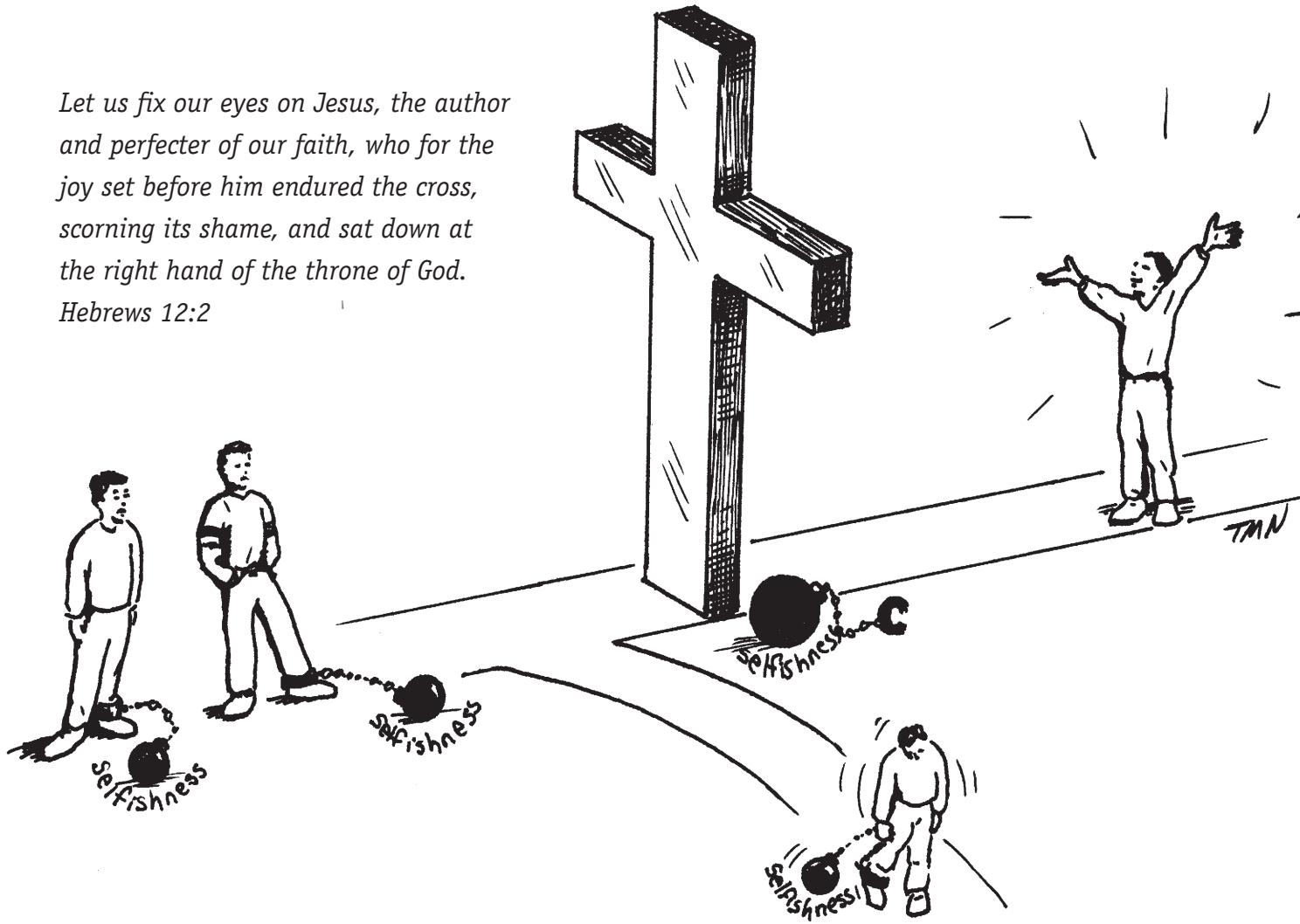
Jesus said, ... "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34

If you want to follow Jesus, you will walk the path He took to the cross and out the other side into resurrection. There is no way to get to the resurrection except through the cross. To take up the cross **is** to deny yourself, or, in other words, to die to your selfishness. This is the path of following Jesus, your new lifestyle of dying to selfishness.

Jesus was able to take that path, facing death, because He kept His eyes on "the joy set before Him"— the resurrection and the position of reigning that would be His.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2



Fix your eyes on Jesus – follow Him. The joy set before you, resurrection, is **freedom from the bondage to selfishness!** Look at the results of selfishness:

People will be lovers of themselves (selfish), lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholly, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. 2 Timothy 3:2-4

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.
James 3:16

Dying to selfishness means increasing freedom **from** all these negative things and freedom **to** love others like Jesus loves them. That is resurrection - the joy set before you. When you are in God-allowed circumstances that reveal your selfishness, you will be able to die to it by keeping your focus on the resurrection freedom – just like Jesus kept His focus.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

► **Read Mark 8:27-37.** (also found in Matthew 16:13-28)

Who did Peter proclaim Jesus to be?

The “Christ” was the promised Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament. Every devout Jew cherished the hope of His coming. Peter believed that Jesus was actually this long-awaited Messiah, the deliverer of Israel from her oppressors. He assumed that meant Jesus was the One who would overthrow the Romans and become king of Israel, which would eventually then become a major world power.

How did Peter react when Jesus said that He would be killed?

Jesus says, “*You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.*” In verse 34-37, what are the things of, or path of following, God?

The *things of men* are to *save his life* and to *gain the whole world*. Peter thought Jesus was going to *gain the world*, or rule Israel. He thought if Jesus died, He would lose everything. Peter recoiled at the message of the cross.

Yet, by dying, Jesus actually gained all authority. *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:8-11*

Like Peter, we recoil from the message of the cross which is to deny ourselves instead of preserving our life.

In entering the Kingdom -- why do we balk at the surrender of the self? The answer is simple: We feel that in surrendering the self we have nothing left. For the self is the one thing we brought into the world, the one thing we will take out of the world, and the one thing we live with intimately day by day. Let go of that -- then we have lost all. That is the basic fear. But it is a false fear. For the opposite happens. If we save ourselves, become centered in ourselves, we lose ourselves automatically. Every self-centered person is an unhappy person -- no exception. Center yourself on yourself, and you won't like yourself and nobody else will like you. As one psychiatrist said: "It's a million chances to one that the self-centered are unpopular." With whom? First of all with themselves. They do as they like, and then they don't like what they do. They have their way and then they don't like their way. They express themselves, and then they don't like the selves they are expressing. Why? Because we were never intended to be the center of the universe – to be God. If you try to be God, organize life around yourself as God, you run against the grain of the universe. The universe won't back your being God. So you are frustrated.

You are made to belong – to belong to the Kingdom. Seek that first and all these will be added to you; seek yourself first and everything, including your self, will be subtracted from you. A banker said to me today: 'I was afraid to surrender myself, but when I did I was promoted.' He lost the old self-centered self and found a God-centered self, a promoted self, a self he and others could live with. He fulfilled the deepest law of the kingdom of God: *Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake, (in a higher cause, the Kingdom) will find it.* (Matthew 16:25 RSV) *The Unshakable Kingdom and the Unchanging Person* by E. Stanley Jones, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1972, p.93-94. Used with permission.

- **Read Luke 14:25-33.** This is about establishing priorities and counting the cost.

In verse 26, "hate" does not refer to emotional hostility but rather to the conscious establishment of priorities. Hate means to love family less than you love Jesus. "*Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;...*" *Matthew 10:37*

Loving family less than you love Jesus does not mean that you should make your family a low priority in your life. It does not mean that you should neglect your family for the sake of the ministry. You are commanded to take care of your family. *If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.* *1 Timothy 5:8* But if you have to choose between righteousness and your family's wishes or demands, choose righteousness and obedience to God.

To *hate your own life* means to love Jesus and want His plans for your life more than your own ambitions, desires, dreams, aspirations, and reputation. It means to let all of these die so that He can resurrect the ones He wants you to pursue. It means to let go of, die to, anything in your life that might keep you from fulfilling your eternal purpose in God.

What are the three situations Jesus describes in this passage where you cannot be His disciple (see verses 26, 27, 33)?

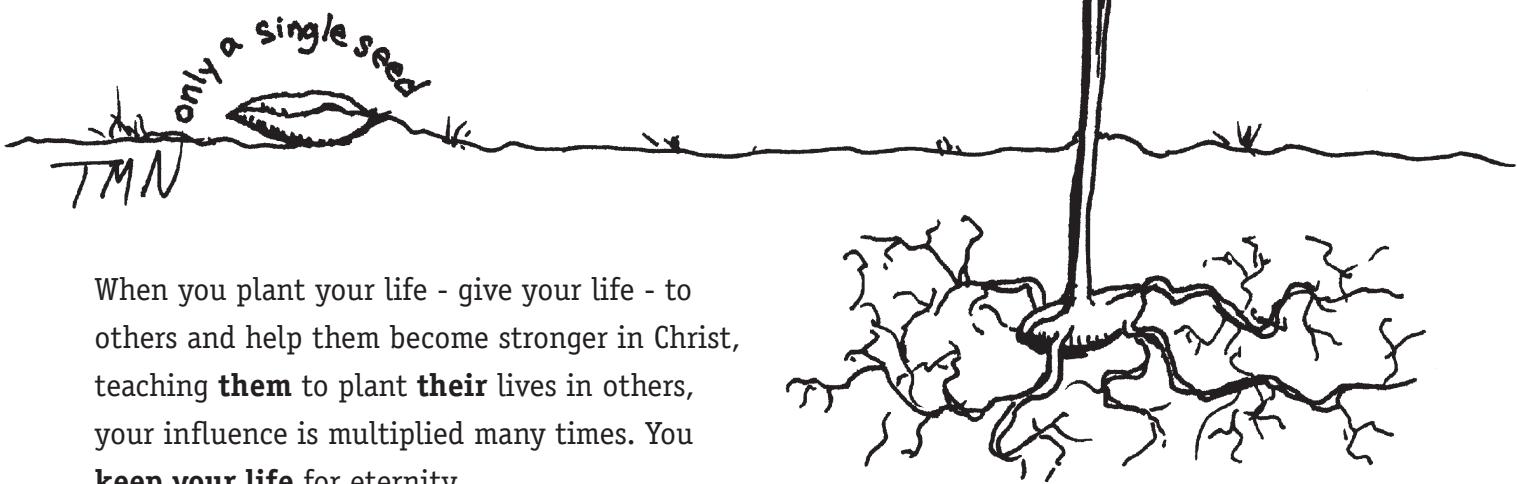
What is the point Jesus is making in the two stories in verses 28-32?

There is no fine print in Jesus' invitation to follow Him. Salvation cost Jesus His life. Receiving that gift and following Him will cost you yours. The benefit is freedom in this life and reigning with Christ in eternity. Trying to follow Jesus without carrying your cross as it is described in this passage will only frustrate you. You will complain and murmur, just like the rest of the world. Jesus says that you **cannot do it.**

► **Read John 12:24-26.** This is the principle of a seed dying so that it multiplies.

What is the choice you have as a kernel of wheat?

In John 12:24, how will dying to your selfishness affect the level of spiritual influence you will have?



When you plant your life - give your life - to others and help them become stronger in Christ, teaching **them** to plant **their** lives in others, your influence is multiplied many times. You **keep your life** for eternity.

What are the rewards listed in this passage?

John 12:26 says that if you serve Jesus, you must follow Him, walking the same path of denying yourself, hating your life in this world, taking up your cross, and losing your life for His sake. When you live like this, you will be sensitive to Christ's divine pressure to be where He wants you to be. You will experience the same principle of multiplied influence and the Father's pleasure and honor that Christ experienced through death, resurrection, and reigning.

...anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:38-39 "It is no fool who loses what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

Jim Elliot, missionary martyr in Ecuador.

Jesus' ATTITUDE

► Read Philippians 2:3-4.

What attitudes are you to avoid?

What attitudes are you to pursue?

Attitudes are a realm that rules cannot affect. You can follow rules on the outside and have the wrong attitude inside, like the Pharisees. *Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. Luke 11:39*

Your good at my expense or my good at your expense.
Which one did Jesus choose? Which one will you choose?



God looks at your attitude. ...*The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*" 1 Samuel 16:7

Which of Christ's attitudes do you feel you need to work on? Mark the boxes that apply.

- no selfish ambition (Do you want to use situations to benefit yourself?)**
 - no vain conceit (Do you feel you are too good for taking out the garbage?)**
 - humility**
 - considering others better than yourself**
 - looking to the interests of others**
-



Turn any items you checked into a prayer asking for God's help to change your attitude.

Your attitude is especially revealed when you are asked to serve or submit to authority. Youth With a Mission begins the training of potential leaders by assigning them duties such as cleaning toilets. If they can serve in that way with a good attitude, they qualify for further training. Jesus set this example as seen in the following passage, Philippians 2:5-11. The way up is through the way down.

► **Read Philippians 2:5-8.**

Who was/is Jesus?

What did He choose not to grasp?

Whatever you grasp, seeking to hold on to, you will crush the life out of. You'll crush the life out of relationships with your fear, jealousy, and control. You'll crush the life out of people you are leading with your determination to protect your position and reputation. You can grasp a position, but you will not have any influence. Influence is gained through serving.



When you feel yourself grasping at position, reputation, or people in your life, remember Jesus' example. Although He had every right to all authority and position, He did not grasp it. He released His hold on it, let it go, and served us. Jesus asks you to follow Him, serving with nothing to fear and nothing to protect. *For whoever wants to save his life (grasping) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (letting go) for me and for the gospel will save it. Mark 8:35*

In verses 7 and 8, list the words that indicate Christ's path down from glory.

This is the same path you are to follow as you follow Jesus as His disciple. This is the attitude of Christ – serving and obedience.

In what areas of your life do you find yourself resisting serving your family or roommates (resisting humbling yourself)?

In what areas of your life do you find yourself resisting obeying authority (resisting humbling yourself)?

► **Read Philippians 2:9-11.** Because Jesus was willing not to grasp His life and willing to take the position of a servant, He was exalted.

Jesus made Himself nothing, with no reputation or notoriety.

Who exalted Him and promoted Him?



This is the same path you follow as you follow Jesus as His disciple. Healthy Christian leadership is for those who are willing to serve as Christ showed you. Be willing to obey God and be unknown.

Make Christ's attitude your way of life. Then, when He returns, you will reign with Him because you served with Him. The way up is the way down.

Just as Christ was obedient to the cross, so are you to be. *"And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27 "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Luke 9:23*

The cross is not unpleasant or bothersome circumstances or people.

The cross is denying your will and doing God's will in moment by moment decisions.

The cross is the place, the moment, you die to selfishness and give up your rights to your own way.

what it looks like to TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND DIE TO SELFISHNESS - Giving Up Rights

If you give up, or turn over, your rights to Jesus,

every event becomes a privilege, not something you deserve – you never are disappointed.

every event becomes a privilege, not a drudgery to be performed – you never have cause to complain.



Let go of, die to, the right to doing what you want with your life, being master of your own destiny.

The root problem in all human beings is the determination to live self-directed lives rather than God-directed lives. To follow Jesus means dealing with this issue, answering the question: Who will direct my life?

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6 (emphasis mine)

This root *iniquity* was paid for by Christ when He died so that we would no longer live for ourselves, but for Him.

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:15 (emphasis mine)

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. ... 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (emphasis mine)

According to these last two Scriptures, on what basis does Jesus have priority in determining your destiny or what you do with your life?

How much are you worth to Him? How much has He invested in you?

If you invested as much in someone as Jesus has invested in you, you would take good care of that person. He/she would be able to trust you to do what is best for him/her; your proven love would have given your friend good reason to trust you.

Is Jesus trustworthy to direct your life? Are you willing to trust Him?

In the following passages, you will see how Jesus gave up his right to do whatever He wanted to do, submitting to His Father's will.

→ **Read John 5:19 and John 15:9-11.**

So, do what Jesus did on earth in His relationship with the

Father:

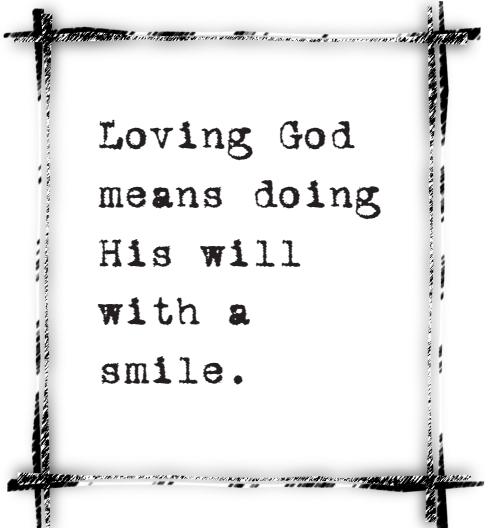
watching,

listening,

obeying,

and, thus, **remaining in the love relationship with His Father with complete joy.**

You can stay in a close relationship with your heavenly Father in the same way.



Loving God
means doing
His will
with a
smile.

► **Read Matthew 11:28-30.**

What are the qualities about Jesus that would make Him trustworthy with your life?

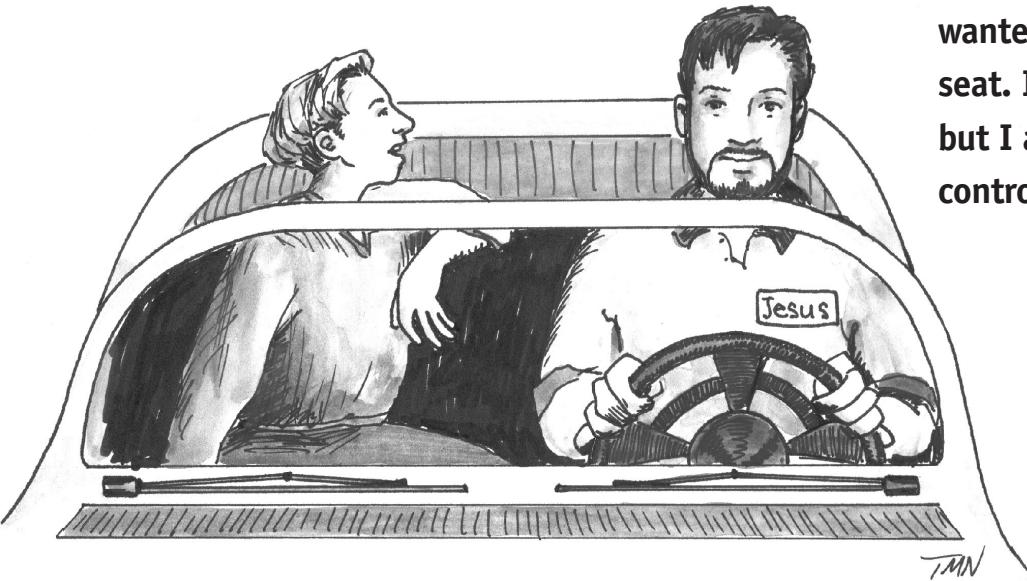
If you yield to Jesus' yoke by obeying Him, what is the result for you?

Yielding in obedience to Jesus produces rest, peace, and the safe place of being yoked with your gentle, humble, wise, loving God.

Yield your life to Jesus by obeying in the little things everyday. Doing what you know is right each day keeps your feet on the path to fulfilling your destiny, step by step. *Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. James 4:17*

"I figured I was the driver of my own car and Jesus would sit in the back seat and give advice. I quickly realized that the Lord Himself wanted to take over control of my car; He wanted to be in the driver's seat. It was a hard choice, but I am glad I yielded full control to Him."

a university student



Taking up the cross does not mean you have to live a life you hate. Jesus wants you to hand Him your life as a blank sheet of paper for Him to write on. But you don't have to be afraid of what He will write on it. Just because you **don't** want to do something as a career, does not automatically mean God will choose that for His will for your life. He has given you desires, interests, gifts, and abilities for a purpose. But those desires and gifts, unsubmitted to Him and operating in you without dying to selfishness, will be destructive to you and those around you. If you turn over all your dreams to Him and die to the right to have them, He will give them back to you in greater measure **or** He will give you far greater dreams that He will fulfill. Either way, you will experience great rewards in this life and eternal glory besides. God is trustworthy with your life. *Delight yourself in the LORD* (live a life that is toward God) *and he will give you the desires of your heart.* (He will either give you what you desire, or He will give you desires that He wants to fulfill.) *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Psalm 37:4-6*

A plain bar of iron is worth \$5.00. The same bar of iron when made into horseshoes is worth \$10.50. If made into needles it is worth \$4,285.00. If turned into balance wheels for watches it is worth \$250,000.00. This also is true of another kind of material - you. In most of life, your value is determined by what you let God make of you.

Give your agenda for life to Jesus. He is trustworthy. Make this verse into a prayer as you put your times, your days and years, into His hands. *But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Psalms 31:14-15* (emphasis mine)





Let go of, die to, the right to reputation and position.

► **Read Mark 1:1-5.**

What statements show the importance of John's position?

John (the Baptist) was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy as the front-runner for the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus Christ. He had a strategic, God-ordained position given to him alone. In addition, he drew hundreds of people from the region to hear him preach and to be baptized. His influence was powerful and life-impacting.

► **Read John 3:26-29.** What was John's response when Jesus began drawing the crowds away from him?

What was the underlying concern of John's disciples?

From whom did John say he had received his ministry and leadership position?

How do you think this recognition helped him keep from grasping his position of influence?

How would you apply this attitude to your position of ministry?

Who did John know that he was?

What statements reveal that he was content with who he was? He did not need to remain in a front-and-center position to feel good about himself.

John received his recognition from God. When the focus of the people shifted to Jesus, he graciously accepted the Father's will. John gave up his right to a ministry position. He didn't say, "I was here first, I speak louder and better than Jesus. It's not fair."

Let go of the right to be known as somebody important. Love to be unknown. Let your need for recognition be met by Father God.

Let go of the right to position and power and let God place you where He wants you. Then, be faithful within that sphere of influence. Don't compare yourself with others and the size of **their** sphere of influence.

→ **Read John 13:1-5.**

Who did Jesus know that He was?

What did Jesus do that showed He was secure in His Father's love, that He knew who He was?
(Notice "so" in verse 4.)





*whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life **as a ransom for many.**" Matthew 20:25-28 (emphasis mine)*

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-3

In the above two passages, circle all the descriptions of leadership in the kingdom of God.
Underline all the descriptions of leadership in the world's way.

Abusive leaders love their position and use it to wield power. Leaders who lead in the way Jesus exemplified are eager to serve those who God has given them. They keep themselves from **wanting** to be great and first. They are willing to take an unimportant position and serve without recognition.

Let go of the need to prove yourself. Be free to find opportunities to serve people.

Jesus was all-powerful and the most important being in the universe. But He didn't need to prove it to anyone. He was secure in who He was in His relationship with His Father. He was truly the greatest and became a servant to His disciples, and to you, as a ransom.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and

**When your life
and ministry
speak for
themselves,
don't interrupt!**

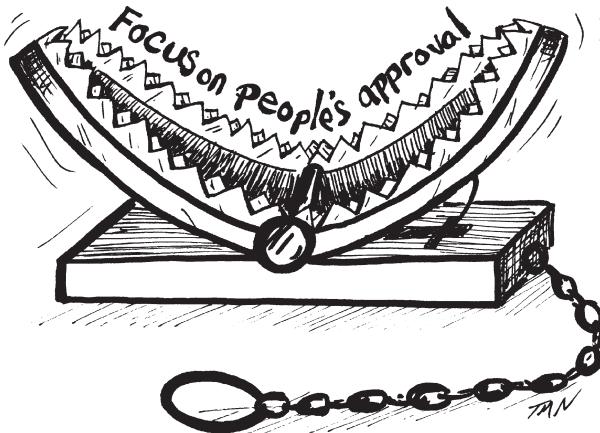
You are living your life on a stage before two different audiences: God and people. You must choose whose approval you will seek. Living for the approval of people means slavery to their ideas of who they want you to be; it means conforming to the pressure to fit in with your peers. *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.*

Proverbs 29:25

Living for the approval of God means freedom from the snare of this pressure. You care more about what God thinks of you than what people think. *He who fears the LORD* (lives to please and reverence God) *has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.* Proverbs 14:26-27 “Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:10

“Where He guides, He provides; where He provides, He promotes; what He promotes, He protects. You don’t have to promote yourself.”

Loren Cunningham,
founder of Youth With a Mission



Let go of the right to endorsements by people. Look for the endorsement of God on your life. Let His approval be the most important thing to you.

Let go of asking: “What will people think of me?” Be willing to stand alone (ask Jesus for the strength you need), identified with Jesus and His way of living. Let go of identifying with the group. It is never popular to do the will of God.



(for single people) Let go of, die to, the right to marriage.

► **Read Matthew 10:37-39.** (Luke 14:26-27, a similar passage, includes wife and siblings in the list.)

In other words, Jesus said, "Unless devotion to Me, expressed by diligent and consistent obedience, is greater in intensity of fervor than to those who are the nearest and dearest to you, then you can't be My disciple." Joy Dawson, teacher with Youth With a Mission

Choose to remain wholly devoted and obedient to Jesus. Don't sacrifice this for a relationship that is less than God's best. That is idolatry. *Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.*

1 Corinthians 10:14

Important questions to resolve:

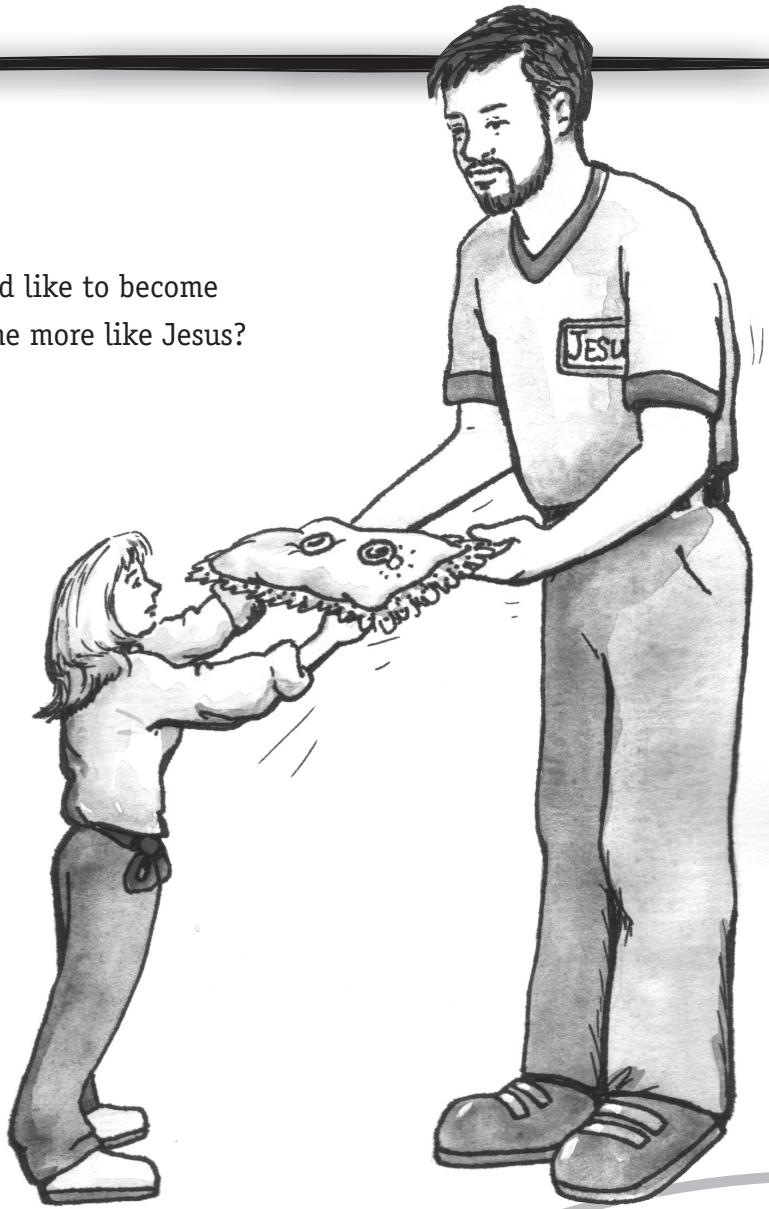
- Do you love Jesus and want to follow Him more than being married?
- Do you love Jesus more than marrying someone who is less than God's best for you, even if you're in love with them?
- Does God owe you a spouse?
- Will marriage fulfill you?
- Was Jesus fulfilled even though, by the Father's will, He was not married?
- Are you looking for qualities in a spouse that will not hinder you from following Jesus fully? *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14*

- Are you looking for a spouse that you would like to become more like because he/she is seeking to become more like Jesus?

- Is your highest priority to obey Jesus and become what He wants you to be? You would then pursue **becoming** someone who would be a perfect spouse someday rather than **finding** the perfect spouse?
But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (seek first to be the person God wants you to be), and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

Ask God for His grace, strength, and help to:

- Let go of the right to be married.
- Let go of the right to marry less than God's best.



"The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." Isaiah 58:11

What does this passage reveal about God's trustworthiness?

Trust your Father in heaven to provide for you, either by marriage or by His grace to remain single awhile longer.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

According to this passage, who has priority rights to your body? On what grounds?

Let go of the right to have sex outside of marriage.

Once married, you give up the right to a spiritual, emotional, or physical relationship of oneness with any other person besides your spouse.



Let go of, die to, the right to shelter and food.

► **Read Matthew 8:19-20.**

If you follow Jesus wherever He goes, how would that affect your view of your living arrangement?

You won't always have a comfortable place to stay. How will you respond?

► **Read Numbers 11:4-6.**

The Israelites had food. What were they complaining about?

What was the difference between their condition in Egypt and now in the wilderness?

They were forgetting that along with the foods they craved from Egypt also came slavery.

► **Read Philippians 3:18-19.**

With regard to food, what does it mean to be an enemy of the cross?

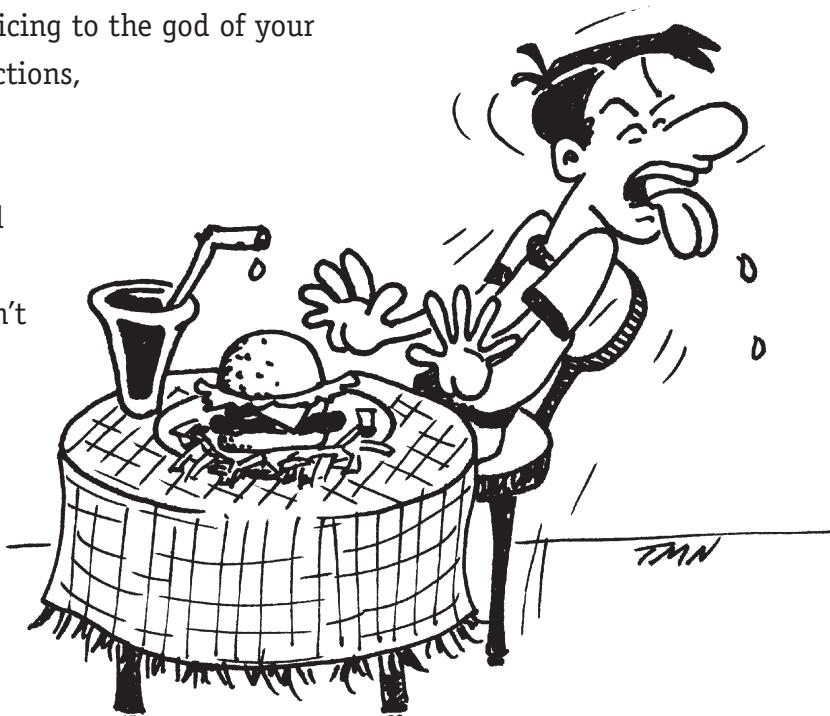
What is the cost **not** to die to the right to the foods you like or the amount you want?

A god is anything around which you center your life, your thoughts, and your actions. It is anything to which you sacrifice the important things in life, like your health. It is too important to you.

Following are some questions to ask to see if food might be too important to you.

For each one, tell what you would be sacrificing to the god of your stomach. (For example, sacrificing loving actions, your health,...)

- Do you get grumpy if you are served food that is not your favorite? Do you refuse to eat it, or do you pick out the parts you don't like?
- Do you eat to satisfy a feeling or an emotional need?
- Do you keep tight, even obsessive (you think about this many times a day), control over what you eat in order to achieve and maintain a certain body image?



When you die to the right to the foods you like, or the amount you want, or even the body image you want, your life is no longer centered (a god) around food. Your mood and satisfaction are not dependent on food. You eat to live, not live to eat. Ask Jesus to show you the path to freedom. (See **Overcoming Sin** section.)

Dying to the right to the food you want is not to be confused in any way with restricting food intake (or fasting) for reasons that are rooted in self-esteem and identity issues. Dying to rights is dying to controlling your own life and, then, letting Jesus take over each area.

♦♦ **Read Philippians 4:12-13.**

What were the conditions in which Paul found himself?

Does it sound as if Paul was **naturally** content? How did he become content?

What is the “everything” Paul can do through Christ’s strength?

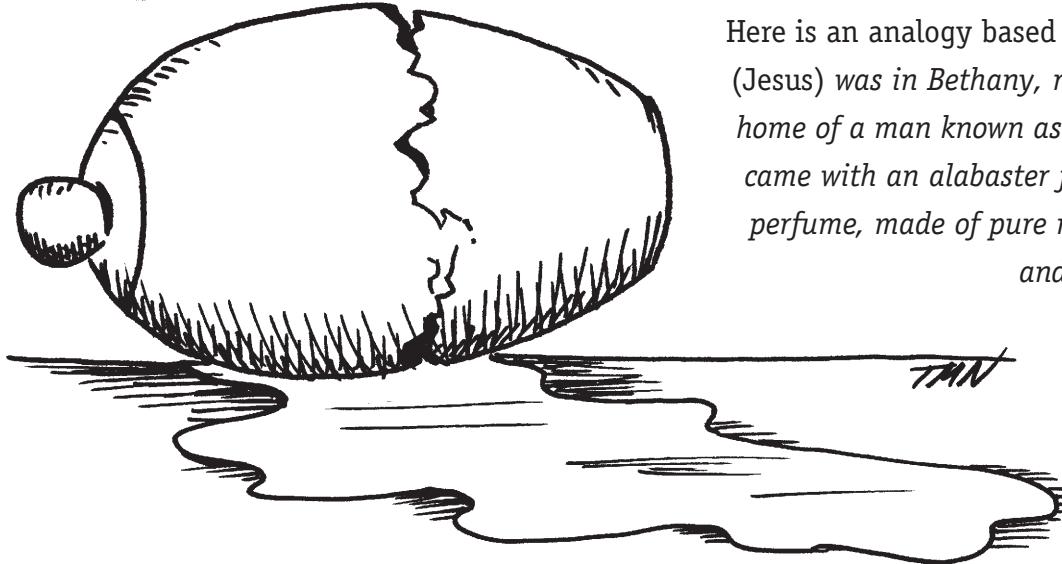
Paul was free. Dying to the right to having the food and shelter you want sets you free to be content wherever you are. Your mood and happiness is not dictated by your surroundings. *But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing (even if it's not your favorite or lacks variety), we will be content with that. 1 Timothy 6:6-8*

Fasting is an under-emphasized spiritual discipline because people tend to resist giving up the right to food. In the following passage, note the assumption Jesus has that you will fast. *But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:17-18 (emphasis mine)*

(See the **Prayer** section of the notebook for more about fasting.)



Let go of, die to, the right to use your talents and gifts.



Here is an analogy based on Mark 14:3. *While he (Jesus) was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.*

Letting go of the right to use your talent is like breaking the alabaster jar. This action allows the best

part, the perfume, to be released. The woman offered the perfume to Jesus to bring Him pleasure and to serve Him.

If you are offended when you are overlooked, corrected, or asked to improve, it reveals your need to let go of this right. If you need to be known by your talent in order to feel good about yourself, or if you have to prove something by being noticed, your identity, or ego, is too wrapped up in your talent. When you let go of, or die to, the right to use your talent or gift, your motive is to offer and use it to bring pleasure to Jesus, like the woman in the Scripture did. Your gift becomes a sweet aroma for people and for God. You are free from becoming offended when your gift is untapped **or** from pride when you are acclaimed. Jesus is your audience.



Let go of, die to, the right to sleep.

Jesus sometimes prayed all night. *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. Luke 6:12*

→ Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28.

What rights did Paul die to as a servant of Christ?

Paul is **not** complaining in this passage. The context of this letter is to defend his apostleship **so that** the Corinthians would not be taken in by false apostles. He is motivated by concern for **their** well-being spiritually, not the recognition of his apostleship.

God may wake you at night to pray.

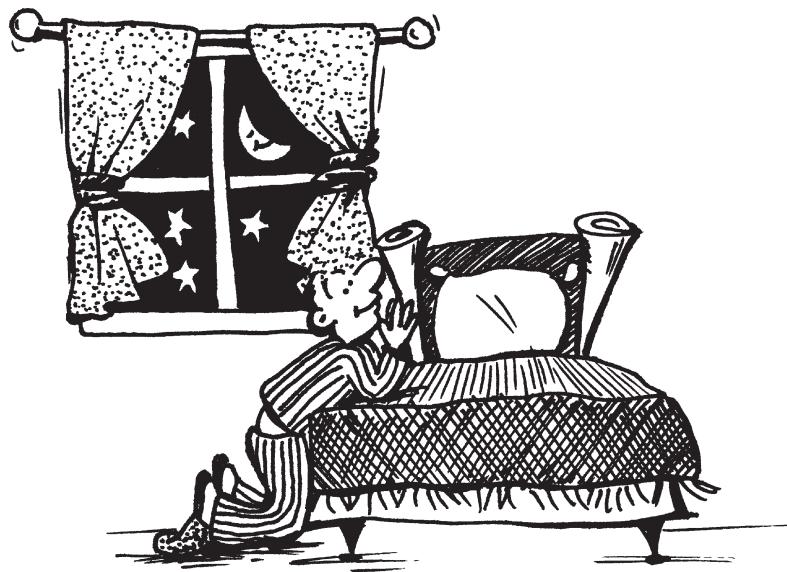
You may be helping someone or praying with them about their concerns long into the night.

You may be serving and ministering when you are weary.

You can view times like these as a bother or an opportunity.

Will you take the opportunity Jesus gives you without complaint?

Then, you have died to the right to sleep and rest.





Let go of, die to, the right to finances and possessions, the right to spend money as you please. (See **Financial** section of the notebook for further study.)

*In the same way, any of you who does not give up **everything he has** cannot be my disciple.*
Luke 14:33 (emphasis mine)

► **Read Matthew 19:16-26.** The rich man obeyed God in every area of his life except one. He gave up **almost** everything.

What do you think was the rich man's attitude (feelings, beliefs) about his money that made him turn away from following Jesus? Was he afraid? Was it his source of security? Was it too important to him?

Did choosing his money rather than being Jesus' disciple make him happy? (verse 22)

Don't believe the lie that possessions will make you happy. The only way to be happy is to hold them with an open hand and continually offer them to Jesus.

According to verses 25-26, what is God's response to you if you are willing to obey Him when He asks the impossible, to die to the right to having possessions and money?

In this story, the impossible task for the rich man was to give up all his possessions. He held them too tightly. Possessions defined who he was. "If I don't have them, who will I be then?" he feared. Jesus wanted his identity to be securely in being His disciple (the only place of certainty).

► Read Matthew 19:27-29.

What investment opportunity did the rich man refuse?

What dividends were the disciples receiving for their investment in the treasures of heaven?

Don't let your life center around accumulating money for its own sake. Keep your central focus on obeying and serving Jesus and use your money to do that. Use your money and possessions to love God and love people. Don't love money. Keep your heart in the right place. *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Giving demonstrates where your heart really is. Give generously to God's priorities: people hearing the gospel, the poor being helped, people welcomed and loved. You are investing in heaven, an eternal reward. And God will multiply back to you a blessing. *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* Luke 6:38



When you have plenty of money and possessions, it tempts you to become self-reliant, rather than depending on God to supply. Then, you fool yourself into thinking you have attained it by your own strength and ability. Read Deuteronomy 8:10-18 and find this theme.

It is not **having** wealth, as such, that destroys your relationship with God and people. But it is what wealth can **do to you** if you are unconscious of the dangers. Maintain a posture of dependence and gratefulness toward God. And maintain a giving lifestyle. Love God and love people. Don't love money or anything you possess.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill



Let go of, die to, the right to the friends you want.

► **Read Matthew 12:48-50.**

How do you live as a member of Jesus' family?

Doing God's will means you die to your own preferences. Will you do His will and love whom He loves?

► **Read Matthew 5:46-47.**

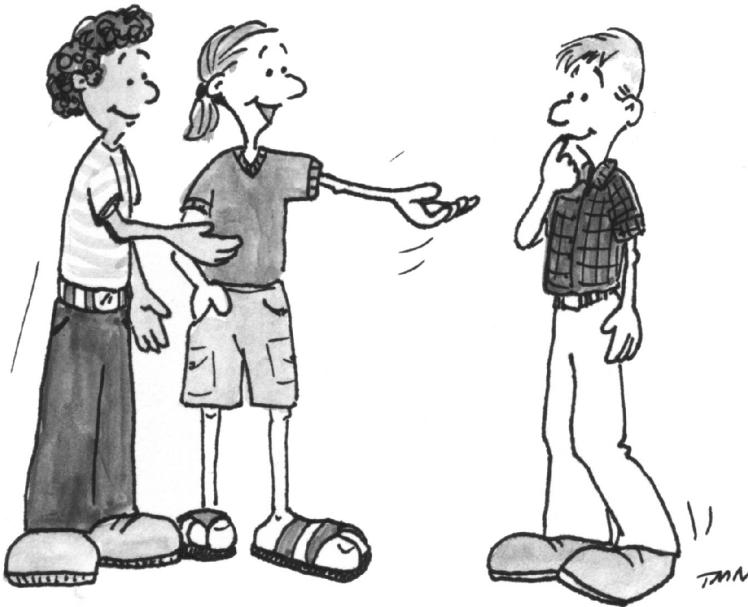
What is the lowest level of love and friendliness?

How does Jesus assess the reward value of functioning at this level?

In this passage, what are the rights Jesus is asking you to let go of?

People are worth knowing and loving because God knows them and paid dearly to reveal His love to them.

People are significant and precious because they are a special creation with the stamp of the image of God. This grants **every** person objective value. They are valuable to God. Therefore, for that reason only, they must be equally valuable to you. Their value to God, and you, is not based on their looks, abilities, personality, or whether or not you enjoy them. People are worth knowing and loving because God knows them and paid dearly to reveal His love to them.



Jesus will ask you to expand the circle of your friends to include others. He will ask you to be outwardly focused, looking for those who need to be included. Be the one to extend the welcoming hand. God extended His hand to you across a much greater distance.

Have these truths in your mind when you introduce yourself to someone new or invite someone to sit with you who needs a friend. In the following passage, note how you invest in an eternal inheritance when you do this.

"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. ...For I was a stranger and you invited me in"

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you a stranger and invite you in ...?'"

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:34-35, 37-38, 40

Whom are you actually welcoming when you are friendly to someone new or in need of a friend?

Will you limit your friends to only those you like? Jesus didn't! Read John 6:37-38 and note Jesus' response to those the Father sent Him.

What was Jesus' response to those the Father sent Him?

Why did He respond that way? (verse 38)

A prayer to pray: Father, give me the friends You want me to have. Give me the people You want me to mentor. I will accept the people You bring into my life just like Jesus did.

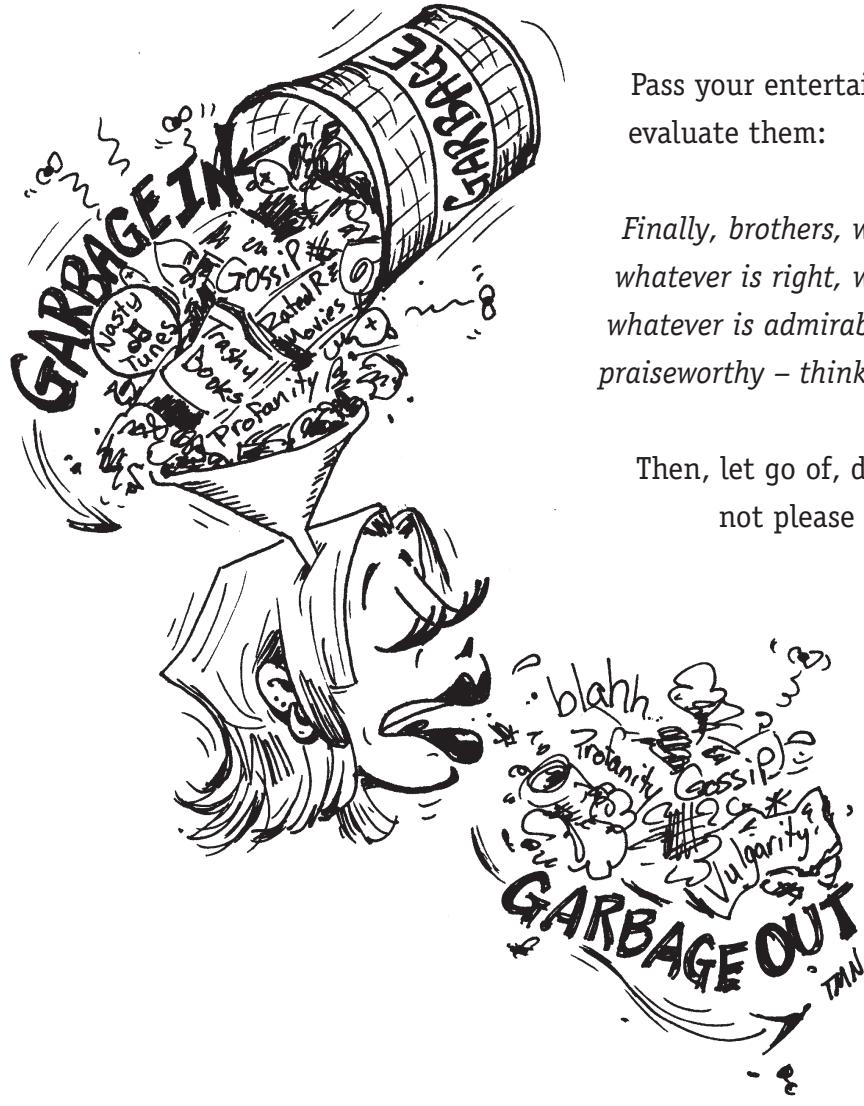


You may not have met your best friend yet!



Let go of, die to, the right to the entertainment you want.

What you listen to, look at, and read enters your mind and is almost impossible to dislodge. Once there, it affects your thinking, your heart motives, and your actions. The battle for holiness is won or lost in your mind and your heart. Feed your mind and heart with entertainment that will win the battle.



Pass your entertainment choices through this grid to evaluate them:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Philippians 4:8

Then, let go of, die to, the entertainment that would not please Jesus.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ... idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Colossians 3:5 and Galatians 5:20-21

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Turn off the TV for two months. One woman did this and had time to take up scuba diving. She watched TV only sparingly after that; **she** was living rather than passively watching **others** live on TV.



Pray: Jesus, what do you want me to listen to, watch, read?

Then, do what He says.



Let go of, die to, the right to the clothes you want.

Some questions to consider:

- Do you wear the types of clothes or the name brand because they will be approved of by your peers?
- Do you compare the way you dress to the way others do? Do you feel inferior or superior?

Seeking people's approval of you based on what you wear is a snare. It opens you up to manipulation by the media. You no longer make purchasing decisions based on who **you** are or what **you** like. You are controlled, snared, to some extent by what you want people to think of you. Let go of, die to, the approval of people and seek to please Jesus. Then you'll be free of the snare. *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. Proverbs 29:25*

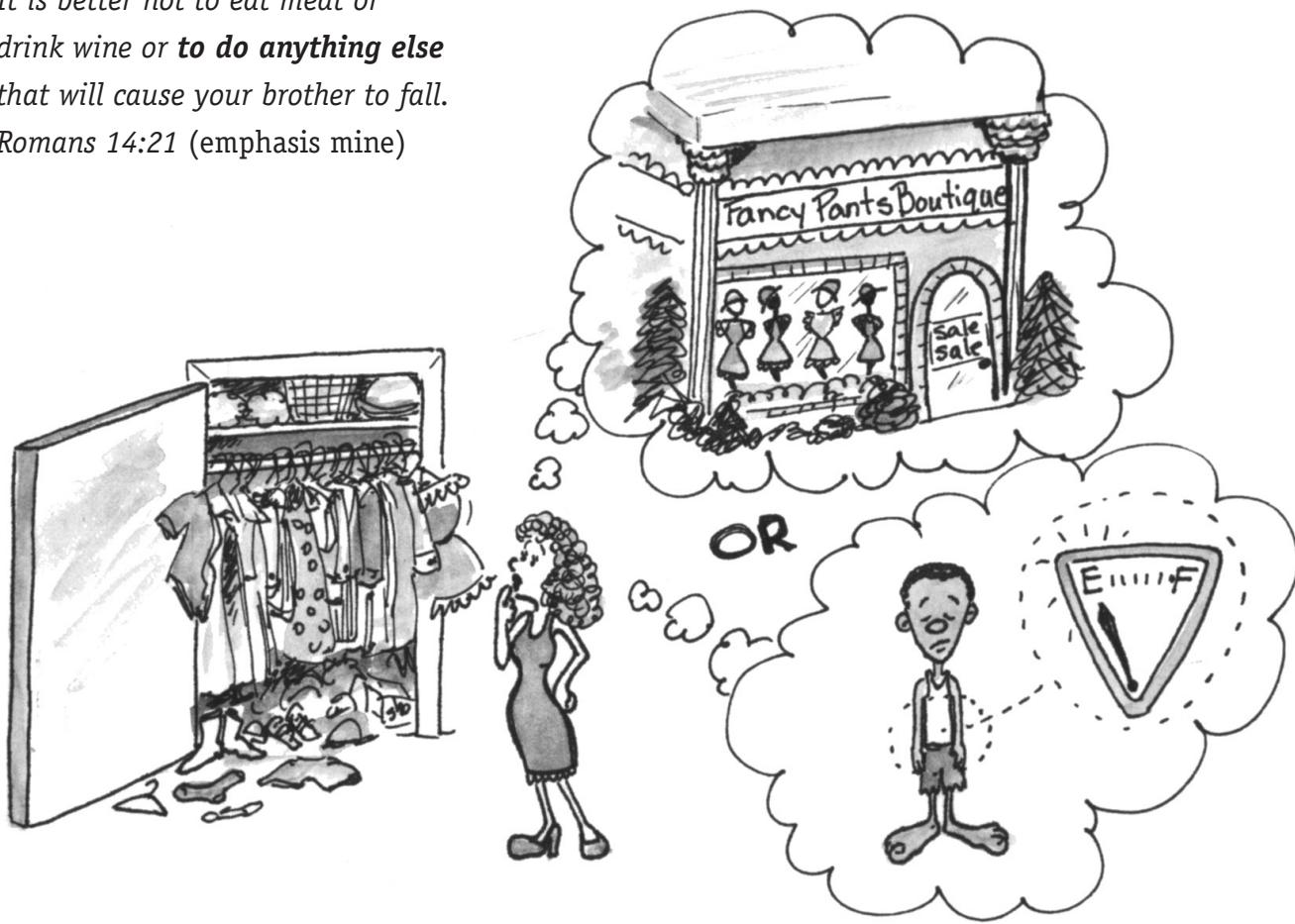
- Do you most often go shopping as a means of entertainment?
- Do you have more clothes than you need?

Make your purchasing decisions in the light of the great needs in the world. Don't clog your closet with more clothes and things. Live simply. Take the money you would have spent on more stuff and use it to relieve suffering where people are cold, under-clothed, and underfed.

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? James 2:15-16

- Do you dress in a way that honors God and helps others live righteously?

*It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.
Romans 14:21 (emphasis mine)*



Don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or if the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your inner life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body.... Has anyone by fussing before the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? If fussing can't do even that, why fuss at all? Walk into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They don't fuss with their appearance – but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. If God gives such attention to the wildflowers, most of them never even seen, don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?... People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself. (A paraphrase of Luke 12:22-32 from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson, Colorado Springs, Colorado: Navpress, 1993, p. 151. Used with permission.)



Let go of, die to, the right to spend time as you please. (See Time Management section of this notebook.)

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from the previous day. Every evening the bank deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!

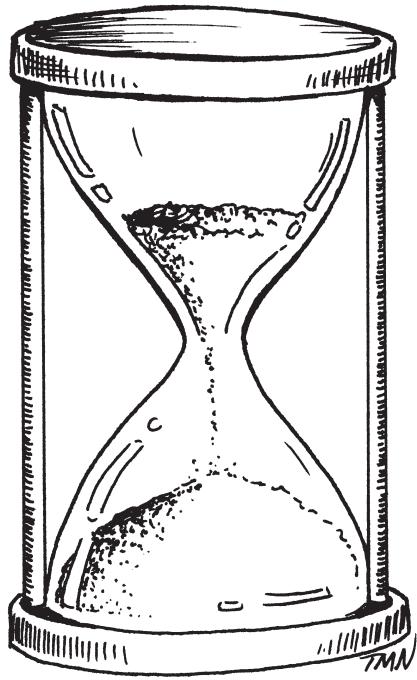
Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off as lost whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose.

- It carries over no balance.
- It allows no overdraft.
- Each day it opens a new account for you.
- Each night it burns the remains of the day.

If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. So, don't waste your time. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in meaningful living both now and for eternity. The clock is running. Make the most of today.

- To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.
- To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.
- To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
- To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
- To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.
- To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.
- To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

**Waste your time,
waste your life.**



Treasure every moment that you have. Invest your time, spend your time, on God's priorities: building relationships with people and bringing them closer to Him. Consider the needs of others, using your time to serve them. *Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.* Ephesians 5:15-16



Let go of, die to, the right to blend in with your culture.

Two of the main idols in the American culture are comfort and convenience. A commitment to being untroubled and peaceful will set you up to be deceived and manipulated. You will not see the truth about the world because it is troubling. As long as the trouble is not in your own backyard, you will do nothing to stem the tide.

You will spend your money and time on what will bring you personal comfort and make your life more convenient and enjoyable. You will shield your eyes from the troubling images of the way the rest of the world lives. You will do nothing to ease suffering or slow the pervasion of evil into the culture.

Die to the right to live a comfortable and convenient life. Be free to make a difference. See the suffering and evil in the world and do what Jesus tells you to do about it. You can't do everything that needs to be done. But you can do the part Jesus gives you. *Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.* 2 Timothy 2:3



Let go of, die to, the right to life itself.

Christ died so that everyone could come to Him. And for all to hear that message, some of us may die.

They overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12:11

► **Read Acts 21:10-15.**

What issue had Paul settled in his heart?

What mental state does he appear to be in when he is told that he will be imprisoned?

Paul had already died to the right to life and therefore was free and at peace while facing death. Because he had let go of the right to life, he had conquered the fear of death.

► **Read Romans 8:35-39** to find out why he was able to let go.

Why are you able to be more than a conqueror in facing death? Of what can you be convinced?

Jesus died the death of the damned so that you do not have to die that death. He was resurrected from death so that the physical death you die is a doorway into eternal living. This is your hope, substantiated by the reality of Jesus' resurrection. You do not need to be enslaved by the fear of death. *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15*

In Hebrews 11, Paul describes the exploits, deliverances, **and** sufferings of Old Testament saints. Note the combination of experiences in this one particular verse. *Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.*

Hebrews 11:35

There is a better reward for those who suffer for the sake of Christ.

That commitment made the Christians invincible. Having already faced the cross, they could look opposition in the eye, without flinching, knowing that they were “more than conquerors” through Christ. It is significant that the

word “witness,” which Jesus used in reference to the disciples, means “martyr” and is so translated several times in the New Testament. Those who speak the Word must be willing to die for it. This was their martyrdom - a daily dying with Christ - that put a song in the heart of the church. Realizing they were dead, buried, and raised with Christ, what had they to fear? They belonged to Him who had defeated every enemy. So whether they lived or died, what difference did it make? They were the Lord’s.

Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Fleming H. Revell, 1963, p. 115. Used with permission.

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14:8 You will always be the Lord’s, always in His love and care, never separated from Him no matter what happens.

three responses TO THE CROSS —

1

- I'll never hold on to a right again! I'm going to die to all these rights!

You can't crucify yourself. Your own efforts at reform will fail you. *Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Galatians 3:3*

2

- I've tried to die to selfishness. I've tried to change. It doesn't work and it's not worth the effort. I don't have any hope for success.

Are you so impossible a case that even God does not have enough power to change you? God will never give up on you, so don't you do it. The secret is in response #3:

3

- I want these selfless qualities in my life. But, I know I can't produce them on my own. Jesus, I am willing to change with YOUR help. (Charles Swindoll) "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him." Jeremiah 17:7

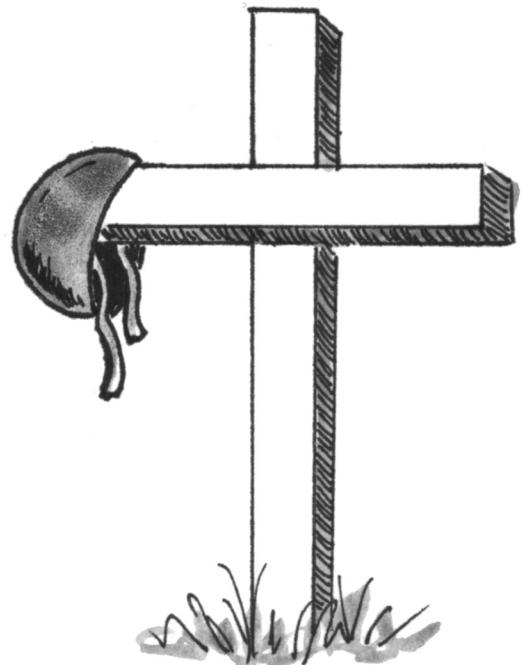
This is how Jesus will often answer your prayer. He will arrange circumstances where you will be tempted to respond selfishly, want your own way, or vindicate yourself. You may be asked to cooperate and submit to someone in authority. You may be asked to serve in a way that you do not want to. You may be overlooked and unappreciated. These are situations God is allowing in order to give you opportunities to die to your rights and be free to love.

When the situation occurs, run to Jesus, call out to Him, and receive **His grace**, His ability, to work through you. Lean hard on Him to help you to die to your rights and respond with His attitude. *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16*

God's army consists of soldiers who have already died. They cannot be bribed, threatened, or held hostage by the enemy. Therefore, they are the most powerful army in the universe because they have nothing to fear, nothing to hide, and everything to gain kept safely in heaven.

Some of Satan's threats:

**I'll put you in prison.
I'll ruin your reputation.
You'll never have a position.
You'll eat spam and pig slop.
You'll never use those talents.
I'll make you poor—obey God and go broke.
You'll suffer.
You'll die.**



When you have turned all these rights over to Jesus, you are free. Jesus is free to multiply back to you far more than you could ever have had if you grasped onto your life. *And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. Matthew 19:29*

dying TO SELFISHNESS

From Youth With A Mission

When you are forgotten or neglected or purposely despised, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight, but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ—**THAT IS DYING TO SELFISHNESS.**

When your good is referred to as evil, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed—and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient, loving silence—**THAT IS DYING TO SELFISHNESS.**

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, and unpunctuality, or any annoyance; when you stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensitivity—and endure it as Jesus endured—**THAT IS DYING TO SELFISHNESS.**

When you are content with any food, any offering, any climate, any society and clothing, any interruption by the will of God—**THAT IS DYING TO SELFISHNESS.**

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversations, or to record your own good words or itch after commendations; when you can truly love to be unknown—**THAT IS DYING TO SELFISHNESS.**

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit, and feeling no envy, or question God's goodness while you are in far greater need and in more desperate circumstances—**THAT IS DYING TO SELFISHNESS.**

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself, and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart—**THAT IS DYING TO SELFISHNESS.**

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." Philippians 3:10-11 (emphasis mine)

Dying to selfishness results in the freedom of resurrection living.

how to stand for WHAT IS RIGHT WITHOUT STANDING UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS

The cross deals with the motives of your heart. That is where selfishness resides. Your heart can deceive you, but God knows your heart. Live in such a way that you hold your heart open for His scrutiny. When He reveals selfish motives, repent, die to your rights, and yield to Him to change your heart. Then, you can stand for **what is right** without standing up for **your rights**.

Wash the Dishes

You and your roommate have established a plan for kitchen clean-up. The expectations have been clearly stated; in fact the scheduled duties are written and posted on the front of the refrigerator. However, your roommate often leaves his dishes in the sink soaking in once-soapy water without washing them. You have done his dish duty as well as your own many times. What is the Christian response in light of dying to your rights?



First, check your heart motives.

- ✓ Are you willing to serve him by cheerfully doing his dishes?
- ✓ Are you willing to do more than your share of the work?
- ✓ Are you doing it without complaining?

If yes, then you have died to your right to only have to do your share.

Next, ask yourself, "What is loving for my roommate? What response would be in his best interest?" Think carefully about this; keep the long view in mind. Is it good **for him** to be able to shirk responsibility knowing you will pick up the slack? What character trait is he nurturing that would adversely affect his marriage and career someday?

When you have his best interests at heart, you are in the right place to speak to him about the situation and devise a plan for change. (See **How to Deliver a Correction** in the **Talking Christianly** section of this notebook.)

May I Borrow Your Skis?

Your friend has asked you if she may borrow your skis. The last time she borrowed something from you, she returned it in poor condition with a shallow apology and no offer to repair it. You feel obligated but are struggling with accommodating her request. What is the Christian response?

Check your motives.

- ✓ **Have you turned over your skis to God?**
- ✓ **Are you willing to let Him use them however He wants (Does God ski?), even if He wants you to let her borrow them and probably trash them?**

If yes, then you have died to your right to using your possessions as you please.

Next, ask, "Am I being a wise steward of what God has entrusted to me if I let her borrow them?"

Then, ask, "What is loving?"

- Is it good **for her** to return borrowed things to me in poor condition?
- Is borrowing things from people postponing the reality of what things cost so that she is not motivated to become more considerate?
- What character trait is she nurturing that would adversely affect her relationships, not just yours?
- Are you willing to chance offending her to do what would be best **for her** and tell her why?

When you have her best interests in mind, you are prepared to make your decision.

You Want a Raise at Your Job

You have worked for a company for a period of time and have done an excellent job for them. You believe it is time for a raise, but it has not been offered. Should you ask for one? What is the Christian response?

What are your motives?

- Greed?**
- Desire for more possessions?**
- Status?**
- Position?**
- Power over others?**
- Are you offended?**
- Do you resent being overlooked or unappreciated?**



Ask God to forgive you for any of these motivations. Then, forgive anyone who has wronged you so that there is no resentment in your heart. Orient yourself to God as your boss, and make it your motive to work in such a way as to please Him. Expect your reward to come from Him, either now or in heaven. *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.* Colossians 3:23-24

Now, you have died to the right to live for your own agenda and interests. You have died to the right to be acknowledged by people. You are working with Christ as your boss, seeking to please Him and gain acknowledgement from Him. You are free.

Then, ask, "What is right in this situation?"

- Do you have as your motive that your boss and the company is successful?
- Do you work so that your boss' goals can be met?
- Do you abstain from complaining or grumpiness? *Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life-- ... Philippians 2:14-16*
- Do you believe the quality of your work and the attitude in which you dispatch it justifies a raise?
- Are you free from the attitude that your boss **owes** you a raise, even though you believe one is justified? This way, if he chooses not to give you one, you can decide what you will do next without resentment.

The answers to these questions should lead you to a good decision with pure motives, asking for **what is right** without jockeying for **your rights**.

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Dick Schroeder, University Christian Fellowship (Chi Alpha) at Montana State University, Bozeman.

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list of SCRIPTURES

→ General References

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 Samuel 16:7 | man looks on outward, God sees heart |
| Matthew 10:37-39 | if love family more than Jesus, not worthy, find life/lose it, lose it/find it |
| Mark 8:27-37 | Peter recognizes Jesus is the Christ, deny self, take up cross |
| Luke 9:23 | take up cross daily and follow Jesus |
| Luke 11:39 | Pharisees clean only on outside |
| Luke 14:25-33 | prioritize Jesus over family, cross, consider cost to following Jesus |
| John 12:24-26 | grain of wheat dies and bears fruit |
| Philippians 2:3-11 | look to the interests of others, Christ's attitude of humility, exalted |
| 1 Timothy 5:8 | take care of family |
| 2 Timothy 3:2-4 | list of selfishness and evil |
| Hebrews 12:2 | Jesus endured cross for joy set before Him |
| James 3:16 | envy and selfish ambition – disorder and evil |

→ Let go of the right to doing what you want with your life

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Psalms 31:14-15 | I trust in you, LORD, my times are in your hands |
| Psalm 37:4-6 | delight yourself in LORD, give you desires of your heart |
| Isaiah 53:6 | like sheep turned to his own way |
| Matthew 11:28-30 | take My yoke upon you, easy and light |
| John 5:19 | Son can do nothing unless is something He sees the Father doing |
| John 15:9-11 | obey My commands, you will remain in My love |
| 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 | you are not your own, bought at a price |
| 2 Corinthians 5:15 | no longer live for ourselves but for Him who died for us |
| James 4:17 | anyone who knows good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins |

→ Let go of the right to reputation and position.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Proverbs 14:26-27 | fears LORD has secure fortress, fountain of life, turning from snares of death. |
| Proverbs 29:25 | fear of man a snare, but whoever trusts in LORD kept safe |
| Matthew 20:25-28 | the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, whoever wants to become great must be your servant |

Mark 1:1-5	John the Baptist's ministry
John 3:26-29	Jesus being baptized, He becomes greater, John less
John 13:1-5	Jesus washes disciples feet
Galatians 1:10	if I were trying to please men, not be a servant of Christ
1 Peter 5:2-3	be shepherds because you are willing, eager to serve; not lording it over

→ Let go of the right to marriage.

Isaiah 58:11	LORD will guide you always; will satisfy your needs, be like a well-watered garden
Matthew 6:33	seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew 10:37-39 (and Luke 14:26-27)	loves family more than Jesus, not worthy, take cross
1 Corinthians 6:18-20	Flee from sexual immorality. Your body is temple of Holy Spirit, not your own; bought
1 Corinthians 10:14	flee from idolatry.
2 Corinthians 6:14	Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.

→ Let go of the right to shelter and food.

Numbers 11:4-6	Israelites complaining about manna
Matthew 6:17-18	when you fast, not obvious to men, your Father will reward you
Matthew 8:19-20	Jesus has no place to lay head
Philippians 3:18-19	enemies of cross, god is stomach, mind on earthly things
Philippians 4:12-13	in need, and in plenty, learned secret of being content, God gives strength
1 Timothy 6:6-8	godliness with contentment, if we have food and clothing, content with that.

→ Let go of, die to, the right to use your talents and gifts.

Mark 14:3-9	woman who broke jar of perfume and poured on Jesus head
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→ Let go of the right to sleep.

- Luke 6:12** Jesus spent the night praying to God.
2 Corinthians 11:24-28 sufferings of Paul

→ Let go of the right to spend money as you please.

- Deuteronomy 8:10-18** when eaten and satisfied, don't say, "My power produced this wealth."
Matthew 6:19-21 Do not store up treasures on earth, but store treasures in heaven, where treasure is, heart is
Matthew 19:16-26 rich man asked to sell possessions and give to poor, harder for rich man to enter kingdom
Matthew 19:27-29 left houses, family, fields, receive hundred times and eternal life
Luke 6:38 give, and it will be given to you.
Luke 14:33 if does not give up everything he has, cannot be Christ's disciple

→ Let go of the right to the friends you want.

- Matthew 12:48-50** whoever does will of Father is my brother and sister and mother.
Matthew 5:46-47 If love those who love you, what reward will you get?
Matthew 25:34-35, 37-38, 40 invite in a stranger, what you do to the least, you do to Christ
John 6:37-38 whoever comes to me I will never drive away. I do the will of him who sent me

→ Let go of the right to the entertainment you want.

- Philippians 4:8** whatever is true, noble, right, etc. think about such things.
Colossians 3:5 put to death sexual immorality, impurity, etc.
and Galatians 5:20-21
Colossians 3:17 whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus

→ Let go of the right to the clothes you want.

- Proverbs 29:25** Fear of man will prove to be a snare
Luke 12:22-32 don't worry about clothes and food, look at birds and flowers,
Father gives you kingdom

Romans 14:21

It is better not to do anything that will cause your brother to fall.
a brother or sister is without clothes and food, but you do
nothing about needs, what good is it?

James 2:15-16

→ **Let go of the right to spend time as you please.**

Ephesians 5:15-16

Be very careful how you live, making the most of every
opportunity

→ **Let go of the right to blend in with your culture.**

2 Timothy 2:3

endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

→ **Let go of the right to life itself.**

Acts 21:10-15

Paul is willing to face imprisonment and death for Jesus

Romans 8:35-39

nothing can separate you from love of Christ

Romans 14:8

whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Jesus freed those who are in slavery by their fear of death.

Hebrews 11:35

some raised from the dead, some refused to be released, so
better resurrection.

Revelation 12:11

overcame Satan by blood of Lamb, testimony; did not shrink
from death.

→ **Responses to the cross**

Jeremiah 17:7

blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD

Galatians 3:3

After beginning with the Spirit, trying to attain goal by human effort
to know Christ, power of resurrection, fellowship of his
sufferings, like him in his death

Philippians 3:10-11

we have priest who was tempted just as we are, without sin.
throne of grace to help us in need