

God's Initiative – Our Response: The Movements of Grace

Serve God, Give God what we have, great or small

From Mother Teresa St Teresa of Calcutta

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do *small things with great love.*”

“I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, ‘How many good things have you done in your life?’ rather he will ask, ‘*How much love did you put into what you did?*’”

Reflection Question: What can I give God in thanksgiving for blessings received?

Simon's Mother-in-Law's response: Mark 1:31 “Then the fever left her & **she waited on them.**”

OR, Jesus sets the best example, Mark 1:35 “Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.” Jesus says in response to grace, first PRAY!

Some other responses after encountering Christ/receiving His grace:

Matthew 2:11 “on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and **offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**”

Luke 19:8 “said to the Lord, “Behold, **half of my possessions**, Lord, **I shall give to the poor**, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.”

Mark 5:18-19 “As he was getting into the boat, **the man who had been possessed pleaded to remain with him.** But he would not permit him but told him instead, “Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you.”

Luke 7:37-38 “Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment.” ... verse

Summary Conclusion-Lesson of This Encounter with Jesus and Gift Response

Luke 7:44-47 “Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.”

Matthew 25: 45 “He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what **you did not do** for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’”

Matthew 25: 40 “And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, **whatever you did** for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 10:42 “whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”

1 Peter 4:10 “**As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another** as good stewards of God's varied grace.”

Romans 12:6 "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, ***let us exercise them***"

John 13:14-15 "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Matthew 18:32-33 "His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?'"

Luke 22:14-20, Mt 26:20, 26-30; Mk 14:17, 22-26; 1 Cor 11:23-25: "This is my Body. Do this in memory of me!" Jesus is saying, "*Do as I have done; I gave, you should give; I forgave,*

2 Corinthians 9:11 "You are being enriched in every way ***for all generosity***, which through us produces thanksgiving to God,"

Luke 6:38 "***Give and gifts will be given to you***; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Luke 22:35 "He said to them, "When I sent you forth without a money bag or a sack or sandals, ***were you in need of anything?***" "No, nothing," they replied.

Matthew 10:8 "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

So we can give a life of Discipleship Service back to Jesus, yet it all begins by giving Him our Heart!

Acts 17:25 "Paul said 'nor is God served by human hands because he needs anything. Rather it is he who gives to everyone life and breath and everything.'"

Psalms 116: 12-14,17 "***How can I repay the LORD*** for all the great good done for me? I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD." I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people....I will offer a sacrifice of praise and call on the name of the LORD."

Psalms 51:18-19 "For you do not desire sacrifice or I would give it; a burnt offering you would not accept. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn."

Romans 12:1-2 "I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

Mark 12:17 "So Jesus said to them, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Or interpreted, this could be saying, "Give to God what is God's"

God asks for our heart, our lives as followers of Jesus- Give all in return

Luke 10:27 "He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 19: 29 “And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.”

What does God want from us? Everything and Nothing!

Matthew 19:21 “ If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Micah 6:8 “what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

First, seek Him, then sit with Him and then Go with Him

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”

Luke 10:39 “Martha had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.”

John 13:23-25 “One of his disciples, the one whom Jesus loved **was reclining at Jesus’ side**. So Simon Peter nodded to him to find out whom he meant (*figuring who would be the betrayer*). **He leaned back against Jesus’ chest** and said to him, “Master, who is it?”

John 14:31 Jesus said, “**Get up, let us go.**”

Mark 1:36-38 “Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, “Everyone is **looking for you.**” He told them, “**Let us go on to** the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.”

Matthew 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Catholics Best Kept Secret of Serenity: Daily Mass

Luke 24:27-33 “Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, **he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures**. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “**Stay with us**, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, **he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them**. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?” So **they set out at once** and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them.”

Matthew 11:28-29 “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.