



May 19-20, 2018

The Benefits of Serving Jesus

Investing in the Life to Come

I. God's Wisdom

John 12:25-26 (NIV®)

²⁵ The man who loves his life (soul) will lose it, while the man who hates his life (soul) in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. **My Father will honor the one who serves me.**

1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV®)

⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both **the present life and the life to come.**

II. Lessons in Giving

A. Abraham ---offered Isaac

Genesis 22:9-14 (NIV®)

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." ¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "**On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.**"

Hebrews 11:17-19 (NIV®)

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

B. David ---giving for Temple

1 Chronicles 29:3-5 (NIV®)

³ "Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: ⁴ three thousand talents of gold (110 tons) and seven thousand talents (260 tons) of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, ⁵ for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?"

C. God ---gave His Son

John 3:16 (NIV®)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 8:32 (NASB®)

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

D. Jesus ---laid down His life

John 10:17-18 (NIV®)

¹⁷ "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. ¹⁸ **No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.** I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

John 19:10-11 (NIV®)

¹⁰ "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above."

Matthew 26:52-53 (NIV®)

⁵² "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

E. Paul ---profit and loss

Philippians 3:7-8 (NIV®)

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

F. Peter ---left everything to follow You

Matthew 4:18-20 (NIV®)

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 19:27-30 (NIV®)

²⁷ Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

G. John ---on the island of Patmos

Revelation 1:9 (NIV®)

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

H. Demas ---love of the world

Colossians 4:14 (NIV®)

¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and **Demas** send greetings.

Philemon 1:23-24 (NIV®)

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings.

²⁴ And so do Mark, Aristarchus, **Demas** and Luke, my fellow workers.

2 Timothy 4:9-11 (NIV®)

⁹ Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ **for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me** and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, teach me to order my days that I may be rich toward You. Guide me in paths of righteousness; let Your truth enlighten my heart and illuminate my way. I choose to be generous with all You have entrusted to me. You have given me life and in grace and mercy have opened the eyes of my heart to see. I choose to yield my life to You, in Jesus' name. Amen.