

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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I Don't Know... Ask the Father

The Sovereign Wisdom of God

But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. - Mark 13:32 KJV

Our Lord was sharing with the disciples events regarding the Great Tribulation. During that discourse, our Lord reveals an amazing truth about Himself, thereby revealing a great truth about our intended relationship with the Father. I don't mind telling you that it blew my mind. This is how it happened.

While contemplating the statement (Mk. 13:32 KJV paraphrased) "the day and hour of this series of events, has not been disclosed to anyone. It has not been disclosed to the angels in heaven and it has not been disclosed, even... to ... the ... Son. Only the Father knows." I asked the Father, "given that Jesus Christ (the Son) is both God and man; how is it that He does not know this?" Being God and being Omnipotent, is it possible for the Son to "not know" something? If so; how so?

In an effort to share with you what the Lord revealed, I'm sure I will not be able to do justice in its retelling, but here goes. In response to this question, this is what I understood the Father to have revealed.

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The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

Give, First

As we approach the fifth month of this year, we continue to take account of how we are showing kingdom leadership in our daily lives. The month of May is an important month as it signals a time of *graduation* for many students (of all ages). It can signal closure of one chapter in our lives and the opening of another. Along with graduations, there may be *promotions* on the horizon. In an effort to coach us into the new adventures God has for us, I would like to remind us of one kingdom leadership principle – effective human resource utilization.

God places people in our lives who have the skills, talents and abilities we need to accomplish the goals he has given us. As we move along our paths of obedience to God, we come in contact with people. Many of these people have been ordained to help us, and vice versa. The challenges, however, with this concept are many. For instance, we do not usually know which people are here to help us; or which we are obligated to help. And, we don't know what talents, skills, financial capacities, or other resources have been assigned to contribute to God's plan for us or for them.

So, the questions that follow are, "How do we determine who is here to help us; and who are we here to help. And how do we coordinate the transfer of these valuable resources?"

The answer to the first question is simple. We do not have to determine *who* is here to help us, and vice versa. Having this information will not provide us with any additional benefits. When God sends people to help, or be helped, He does so often without our knowledge. Many times events pass, and months (or

years) later, God finally reveals to us how certain people were a blessing to us, or we were a blessing to them, in specific situations. This is why it is not necessary to know *who* God will use to bless us, or be blessed by us and further His plan.

Now, this leads to the next questions, “How do we get these people to give us what they have to give in order for us to accomplish the goals God has placed in our hearts? And how do we coordinate the transfer of these valuable resources?”

Here is where we borrow from a lesson learned by King Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, when he became king. Israel came to King Rehoboam and asked him to make their load lighter than what King Solomon had made it. When Rehoboam consulted with the older wise men, they gave him an interesting piece of advice. They said; “if you will serve the people today, they will serve you forever” (1 Kings 12:7 KJV paraphrased). Now, while Rehoboam did not take this advice (and his kingdom suffered greatly as a result), we can learn from this lesson.

The principle is that we, as Christians and therefore leaders in our environments, are to “serve” the people we come in contact with. We are to offer to help them to achieve their goals - first. Then, as we share with them what we are trying to do, God will cause them to give us of their resources (time, talents, finances, etc.) to fulfill the goals he has commissioned us to accomplish. Now, you may ask, “What guarantee do we have that this will actually happen?” To this question, I say, God’s word will not return to Him void, but it will always accomplish his purpose, in our lives (Isa. 55:11 KJV by reference).

The hidden truth is that when we help others, God binds them to us. We, then have to be prayerful so that God can teach us *how* to extract what we need from the people he gives us. This piece is usually more important than wondering if a particular person will help us. We need to know how to ask for the help we need, once we have given the person the help they need. Yes, it sounds like the law of reciprocity, but it’s really more than that. We have to be aware of what we need done so that when God brings the people who can help us (and after we have helped them); we are able to identify how these people can assist us. Once we do this, watch how God causes the people to give to us the value that He has placed in them.

The secret is that we are to “*give first.*” We are to give what people need (as we are able), and we are to share with these people what we need and how they can help. Then, we will see how God has already worked in their hearts to prepare them to help us.

We model good leadership by giving first, and giving what is needed by the other person. Then, we are to ask (under the guidance of the Holy Spirit) for the assistance we need from the people God has given us. Learning to “ask” for help is also something God may have to teach some of us, as it does not necessarily come easily. If this is the case, know that He will empower us to take this necessary step.

This is the word for the month of May, a month of graduation and promotion. 

Leadership Living, Inc., Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO

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SERVANTHOOD

The scriptures teach us that, when Jesus walked among man, although He knew that He was equal with God, He made Himself of no reputation. He, instead, took on the form of a servant (Phil. 2:6-8 KJV paraphrase). To take on the form of a servant, implies the accepting of certain restrictions. Servanthood is the recognition of specifically circumscribed boundaries or parameters. Servants understand that they are bound by the authority and governance of their Masters. Such was the case with our Lord.

Transactional Relationship between Master and Servant

These are the types of transactional interchanges that take place between a Master and Servant; between the Father and the Son.

- Our Lord says of the Father, “I say what I hear Him say. I like the things that He likes; and hate the things that He hates. And thus I am able to serve Him, because it is my pleasure to do His will.” (Ps. 40:7-8 KJV by reference)
- Then answered Jesus and said unto them, ... The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do ... these also do the Son likewise. (John 5:19 KJV paraphrase)

- For the Father loves the Son, and shows [the Son] all things that [the Father] does: and he will show him greater works than these ... (John 5:20 KJV paraphrase)
- For as the Father raises the dead, and quickens them; even so the Son quickens whom He will. (John 5:21 KJV paraphrase)
- For the Father judges no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: (John 5:22 KJV paraphrase)
- ... That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father, Who sent Him. (John 5:23 KJV paraphrase)
- For as the Father has life in Himself; so has He given to the Son to have life in Himself. (John 5:26 KJV paraphrase)
- ... And has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man. (John 5:27 KJV paraphrase)

As Master, the Father gave the man Jesus Christ exactly what He needed to accomplish His earthly assignment. In the words of Paul, it was “grace sufficient for Him” (2 Cor. 12:9 KJV reference). Our God is not a wasteful God. He provides sufficient provision; sufficient grace; and sufficient resources.

ACCESS TO THE ETERNAL

The scriptures prophecy of our Lord’s coming glory (Matt. 25:31 KJV reference); as well they speak of our Lord’s eternal glory, prior to His earthly walk (John 17:5, 24 by reference). There is a sense in which Jesus divested Himself of His eternal glory in coming to the earth. This enabled Him to suffer and die (Heb. 2:9 KJV reference). Even so, He was not completely bereaved of access to His glory.

Through prayer, fasting and obedience Jesus availed Himself of the infinite authority of the Throne of God and His eternal power (Matt. 26:53 KJV reference).

- Jesus often stole away to *pray*. (Matt. 14:23; 19:13; Mark 1:35 KJV reference)
- I know that whatever You will *ask of God*, God will give it to You (John 11:22 KJV reference)
- Jesus knew that the Father always heard His *prayers*. (John 11:41-42 KJV reference)
- When He had *fasted* forty days and nights, afterwards, He was hungry (Matt. 4:2 KJV reference)
- Though He was a Son, yet He learned

obedience by the things that He suffered (Heb. 5:8-9 KJV paraphrase)

- And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became *obedient* unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8 KJV paraphrase)

The Father showed me that our Lord still had access to the Omnipotence, the Omniscience and the Omnipresence of the Father and of the Godhead.

Expressions of Omnipotence

Matt. 9:6 ... that you may know that the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins....

John 1:12 ... but as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God ...

Matt. 11:27 ... All things have been delivered to Me by My Father ...

John 10:18 ... I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again. This commandment I have received of My Father.

Matt. 26:53 ... do you not think that I can pray to the Father, and He will presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels? ...

Luke 7:10 ... returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick ...

Mark 5:29 ... and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague ...

John 11:43 ... Lazarus, come forth ...

Expressions of Omniscience

Luke 6:8 ... He knew their thoughts ...

John 13:1 ... Jesus knew that His hour was come ...

Matt. 7:28-29 ... the people were astonished at His doctrine, for He taught them as one having authority ...

John 13:11 ... for He knew who should betray Him ...

Expressions of Omnipresence

Matt. 17:2 ... was transfigured before them, and His face did shine as the sun ...

Matt. 4:11 ... then the devil left Him and angels came and ministered to Him. ...

Matt. 28:2 ... the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door ...

Here we see but a few expressions of the Eternal characteristics of God, present and/or available in the life of our Lord.

I then understood that in order for our Lord to fulfill His earthly walk, it was not necessary for him to have present, eternal knowledge of the actual date and time

of events like the Great Tribulation (Mark 13:32 KJV reference) or even the returning of the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:7 KJV reference). He knew, as a man, the things that were necessary for Him to fulfill the responsibilities of His earthly assignment. For everything else He trusted and deferred to the Father's wisdom and provision.

The same is true for us; there are certain things that we are to have present knowledge of in order to fulfill our responsibilities to God. There are other things that the Lord will make available to us as the need arises. But in either situation, our eyes are to be on Him, Who is the giver of all things. Our King is efficient; and in many cases He deals with us on a "need-to-know" basis. Our Lord's examples teach us that we may, likewise, avail ourselves of this authority through prayer, fasting, faith and obedience (Matt. 21:22; 26:36 KJV paraphrase).

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To Protect or To Embrace

Which is an Expression of Love?

By David L. White

All scriptures are paraphrased from the King James Bible

Let us open this article with a question: Why is it that the Word of God seems to say that we shouldn't protect ourselves?

The gospel according to Matthew (5:39) says "But I say to you, that you resist not evil; but whoever shall smite you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also." Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (6:6, 7) says "... brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because you go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do you not rather suffer (allow) yourselves to be defrauded?" Matthew (5:44) says "... love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; pray for them that spitefully use you." Why is the Lord so repetitive and seemingly passionate about this?

Perhaps a personal story can be a bit of a tool for lighting the way. I was recently having a conversation with a person about their being protective of themselves. It was as if whenever this person told a story, if anyone was to be the bad guy of the story, it could NOT be them, even if that meant leaving out every situation where they had ever been at fault. In talking with them about this we, together, began to understand that it was the protecting of Self that had brought about so many of the issues from which they further felt a

need to protect Self. It was an underlying sense of Self-exaltation that had been the root of so many problems that they were facing. This was the nerve (or genesis) of the problem. Were this person not so protective of Self, many of the things that this person is currently dealing with would be different.

How could I know this, you ask? I have seen this in my own life. It was in my own nervousness or unwillingness to witness to some people that I caused problems for myself and for them. It was in my own attempt to protect their perception of me, that I damaged opportunities for the Lord to do wonderful things both in my life and in theirs.

Now we have identified one side of the situation posed in the title. We have established the protection of Self.

What, then, happens when we protect self? What are we really doing in a spiritual sense? To protect a thing is to divide it from something else or from everything else. Protection of Self from another is likewise a "dividing" of sorts. When I protect my feelings; my concept of self; my shortcomings; my insecurities from another person; I place a division between myself and that person. I'm sure you are asking if I think this type of division is good or bad. Well let's see.

If we are not to protect Self what do we do when we encounter our insecurities? This may be a thought of yours as you read this article; and I think the answer will be lit up by one physical manifestation of love...a hug. Given the choice one can either hug another or protect Self from that other person. I'm speaking here in the physical sense of course. You cannot both fully embrace and still fully protect Self when you hug. Either you embrace fully, or you protect Self. There is a sense in which love has an "either/or" expression. Either you love the other person, or you protect yourself from them. Either you embrace the other, or you protect Self. If we are taking measures to protect Self, there is a sense in which something is lacking from our love, or an embrace that we could extend.

In protecting Self from another we gender division; but in embracing we affect communion. Remember so long as you protect Self, you create division.

Question: How then does life flow between you and another person, while you divide yourself from them in protection of Self?

Answer: Life does not flow between you so long as, and to the degree to which you divide/protect yourself from another. To some degree, we must be willing to become vulnerable in order to love or to embrace.

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A Journey to Intimacy

The Journey Continues – I Am or Am I?

The Lord is so wonderful to me. Although I don't always understand His ways, I love them.

Let me share with you one of the principles that He is teaching me.

During a conversation with a beautiful woman one day, I noticed that whenever we talked about a virtue such as *uprightness* or integrity; she would (directly or indirectly) respond "I am upright," or "I am a person of integrity." This part of the discussion was a bit troubling to me, because there was much evidence to the contrary. I wondered how does one "help" a person like this. I sincerely believe that she wants to be a person of integrity; but she seemed to think that she had already "arrived."

My later thoughts were that, if a person believes that they "ARE" something, then there is a sense in which they may no longer seek to "BE." They may no longer be open to ways to "BECOME." Beginning to meditate on this before the Lord, I asked for clarity and understanding. The following is a part of what came of that meditation.

Sidebar: I recall another lesson that the Father taught me, during a conversation with one of my colleagues. "You're well on your way to getting a correct answer to your question if you can first frame the question correctly. You're further along the way, if you take care to direct your question to the right person(s)." Otherwise, it's like trying to purchase meat from a bakery.

When the scriptures say, "**A wise son hears his father's instruction....**" We say, "**Father, am I a wise son?**" (Prov. 13:1 KJV)

When the scriptures say, "**A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband.**" We say, "**Father, am I a virtuous woman?**" (Prov. 12:4 KJV)

When the scriptures say, "**Blessed is the peacemaker....**" We say, "**Father, am I a peacemaker?**" (Matt. 5:9 KJV)

When the scriptures say, "**Blessed are the meek;**"

We say, "**Father, am I meek?**" (Matt. 5:5 KJV)

When the scriptures say, "**If you love Me, keep My commandments.**" We say, "**Father, do I love You?**" (John 15:10 KJV)

When the scriptures say, "**Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**" We say, "**Father, do I fear You; do I keep Your commandments?**" (Eccl. 12:13 KJV)

This position of the sincere heart opens a door of discovery. We have then both asked "the right question" and we are asking "the right Person."

The Apostle Paul shows us a very useful example of a right disposition here. He said, "I do not live as if I have already attained." "But my focus is to press toward the mark." (Phil. 3:14 KJV) What mark? The mark of a "perfect man." (Ps. 37:37 KJV) You know, one who is a wise son; one who is virtuous; one who is a peacemaker or meek; one who loves God and keeps His commandments.

Essentially, the Lord is the great "I AM."

We on the other hand, may prove wise to ask, "Father, am I what You require me to be?" or "Do I do what You command?"

◇ KJV ◇



My Personal Creed as a Child of God

- JoAnn White

Who we are as Christians, determines what we do.

Example: I am created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26); therefore I am committed to love the Lord with all of my heart, soul, strength and mind and my neighbor as my self (Luke 10:27). Now that I know who (and whose) I am; I no longer engage in contrary actions and attitudes of the heart. For this same reason I am also committed to refraining from lying, stealing, committing adultery, coveting, engaging in idolatry, dishonoring my parents, etc. (Deut 5:16-21) I am committed to meekness, pureness of heart, the giving of mercy (Matt. 5).

(Inspired by lecture by Ravi Zacharias entitled: *Leadership Seminar Workshop- Session 1*)

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