

Kingdom News

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

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Pledge of Allegiance



We pledge our allegiance to the government of the Kingdom of Almighty God: and to the law upon which it stands. Honoring one God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) who is invincible; and who has made salvation and eternal life available to all.

What does God want you to know about Him?

That they may know....

Lord, have mercy on my son. He is a lunatic and severely oppressed. I brought my child to your disciples and they could not cure him. And Jesus rebuked the devil and the devil departed out of the child. And the child was cured (or healed) from that very hour. (Matt 17:15-18 KJV by reference)

A few days ago while reading this text I was curious ... [that's what the "C" in my middle name stands for (smile)]. I asked the Lord, "What was it that You knew that brought about this result? What was it that enabled You to say and do the things You did? Why did the devil obey you?" There was no discussion, no negotiation; the devil

What does God want ...

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The Leadership Corner

Leadership Living, Inc.

Willing to Learn from Criticism

I was at the gym recently. I usually go on Sunday mornings when very few people are there. It's great because the facility I use has two or more of most machines. As a result, people don't have to stand around waiting to use a single machine if someone else is using it. Normally, I use several different machines during my workout session.

Certain machines work more than one muscle group. One of these is called a "multi hip" machine. On it one can do several types of exercises that work different muscles. I rarely see anyone use this particular machine, which is really good for me because I love to use it. When I do use it I normally take about 15 to 20 minutes. While this sounds like a long time to use a single machine, it hadn't been a problem because there are only a handful of people there to begin with; and most people (at least when I'm there) don't use this machine.

Why did I share all of that with you? Well as fate would have it, on my last visit to the gym another club member wanted to use the machine while I was in the middle of my workout. She let me know this when she walked

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up to me and asked me how much longer I need to use the machine. I politely let her know that I would finish in 10 minutes. She immediately walked away and made a comment to her friend that I was taking far too long on the machine.

When I heard this I intentionally sped up my workout, and I reduced my number of repetitions. After a couple of minutes or so the lady came back over to the machine and began to tell me that the way I was using the machine was incorrect. I politely let her know why I use it the way I do and the benefit I extract from it. She finally replied that the way I was using the machine was not the way it was intended to be used. To this remark I smiled and let her know that I've used machines like this for years and have not had any problems. At that point the conversation ended and I yielded the machine to her.

I don't need to tell you that I was more than a little irritated with this woman. I thought to myself, "the nerve of this woman," trying to "chastise" me for how I chose to use a piece of exercise equipment; particularly after she'd purposely let me overhear her tell her friend that I was taking too long on the machine. I was counting the many ways that I could have responded to this lady; including reminding her that this has to be one of the least used machines in the whole gym. While I worked out on other machines no one touched this machine, including her! But, as soon as I got on it, she decided she had to use it at the same time.

Now, although I knew better than to get into a verbal altercation with this woman (basic leadership principles dictate that a reaction like this would have been foolish); I replayed the scene in my head on the way home. Then, after several rehearsals of the situation, God said to me, "what can you learn from this encounter?" Although I was in the mood to be sarcastic, I managed to resist the temptation to say something stupid to God. I thought for a moment and replied that I could afford to be more charitable when I use the machine in the future. For example, I could split my workout up so that I would not utilize this one machine longer than say 7 to 10 minutes. Or, I could yield the machine to another club member

when I see that someone is waiting to use it. During this time I could work out on a different machine and return to this one a bit later.

God let me know that I should change my behavior so that in a situation like this, I would be more conservative in terms of the length of time I use the machine. He reminded me that although the way the lady approached me was insulting, I could still use her message to improve my behavior. This too is leadership. God could have told me himself that I need to shorten the time I am on the machine, but instead, he chose to use this lady and her insulting remarks. *Lesson learned:* Wise leadership includes choosing to seek God in every situation and using each one to improve behavior and perspective.

In the gym situation I realized that although not many people use this particular machine, it's still not a good idea for me to tie it up for a lengthy period of time. If I were the one waiting for the machine, I would want the person using it to be charitable. I appreciate that God uses all kinds of situations to speak to us. We should be willing to seek to hear his voice no matter how we may feel about the way he chooses to speak.

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simply left.

I am sure I will NEVER forget this. Jesus said to me, "I know that I am God; and he (the devil) is not." Pause and take that in. For generations people have always wondered, hypothesized and postulated about what made Jesus so effective and so powerful.

It was obvious from the results of that interaction, that the devil knows that Jesus is God and that he is not. The scriptures confirm the same. James 2:19 (KJV paraphrased) says that the devil knows that there is one God and he shows respect.

Want to Reap Differently? Then Sow Differently.

To change your return, change your investment.

Take a moment to stop and survey your life ... now look in the mirror. How are things going for you? Do you like what you see? If not, what needs to change? What can be done to create this change? Who controls the change? ... your parents? ... your spouse? ... the government? ... does God? Or do you?

For many of us, the circumstances that comprise our lives are the result of our past decisions, or choices. Again, for many of us the fact is; that the house we live in was built by our very own hands. But don't beat yourself up about that. If you do not like what you see, it is imperative that you recognize that

We must sow differently; ...if we are to reap differently.

Since we no longer live in an agricultural economy, it might be said that we need to invest differently; if we are to get a different return on our investment (ROI) be that time, money, effort, etc. Or for the financial-minded; in order to make certain types of withdrawals; we must make certain types of deposits. This is simply "sowing and reaping" from deposits in relationships to investments in spiritual, personal or career growth.

The scriptures teach us that God will not be called a liar; nor will He be found unjust. (Gal. 6:7 KJV by reference) We reap what we sow. Sometimes we reap what others have sown. That's where grace is extended. But for most of us, we are living a life of our own making. Recognize it, own it and if you don't like it, change it.

There are a number of ways to perceive this truth:

1) If my current situation is something that I created, then I am a failure. Perhaps I should just throw in the towel now. Perhaps, but what's the

return on that investment?

2) If my current situation is something that I created, then I can change it. It is within my control to create a different life for myself. What a powerful perspective. What potential for such enormous return.

Personally, I prefer the second perspective. It is important to me, and probably to some of you, to know that I can change the things that I don't like about my life. Right, wrong or indifferent; I decide what I do with my time, energy and other resources. In the kingdom it is called stewardship.

Gone are the days of "it's not my fault that I am the way I am; or that I have what I have." Or "I didn't have a choice." We have the same opportunities as millions of others; and in many cases, we have better.

In some places, rivers, brooks and streams are already etched out of the earth. In others, they are created by trickles of water, consistently moving along a chosen path. We can make up in time, what we did not inherit in fortune.

Consider this: someone kidnaps you and takes you to the corner of Hawkins Street and Montgomery Avenue in some unknown city; and puts you out of the vehicle. You're standing there on the corner, alone in an unfamiliar place. What is the likelihood that a year later you will still be standing on that same corner? If you are, whose choice is that? While you may not have created the circumstances that took you there; you will certainly create the situation that keeps you there.

If we acknowledge that we own a situation, we can change it.

If you make investments of time in low- or no-value activities; please don't expect to accomplish anything great. If your goal is to lose weight; but your investment is in popcorn, comfortable pillows on the couch and Blockbuster movies; it is not very likely that you will get the expected ROI. If you want to know who God is; but your investment is in making a living or filling your social calendar;

SUMMARY



When you find yourself in a less than pleasant situation, resist the temptation to react emotionally (or worse physically), listen for the voice of God. Remember every situation we encounter is an instrument of learning in the hands of God. Turn to Him for direction. Good leaders model acceptable behavior in all situations. You never know who's watching you.

Want me to tell your future? I can, you know. Sit still it's becoming clear. I see you ... I see you ... reaping what you've sown. Now I will tell you how to tell your own future. Look at what you are doing today. Look at how you are spending your time. Look at what you spend your money on. Multiply that by 3-5 years. And you can see what you'll have. Like it? If not, you still have plenty of time to change it.

Everything that God does, He does so that we may know Him. He longs to introduce Himself to us. To show us who He really is; what are His likes and dislikes. You know ... to have a relationship with us. He'll be the best friend you'll ever have. And you can take Him anywhere.



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