

You Can Trust the Posture

Maturing into the posture of God should be the desire of every Christian. The world is awaiting the manifestation of the mature offspring, Sons, of God. And while there are many facets of God and this maturity, today's lesson will discuss His nature to give. Let me preface this by restating the fact that we do not have a thing that God has not given. And when He asks us for anything, it is something He has provided for us to give. Today we will discuss several biblical characters that gave their precious. We will see how their precious gifts display the giving nature of our God.

John 3:16 NLT

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

2 Chronicles 1:6-12 NLT

6 There in front of the Tabernacle, Solomon went up to the bronze altar in the Lord's presence and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings on it.

7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

8 Solomon replied to God, "You showed great and faithful love to David, my father, and now you have made me king in his place.

9 O Lord God, please continue to keep your promise to David my father, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth!

10 Give me the wisdom and knowledge to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?"

11 God said to Solomon, "Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather you asked for wisdom and knowledge to properly govern my people

12 I will certainly give you the wisdom and knowledge you requested. But I will also give you wealth, riches, and fame such as no other king has had before you or will ever have in the future!"

While this passage greatly expounds on what King Solomon received, we must be sure to also pay attention to the offering. As an act of worship King Solomon offered 1000 burnt offerings to the Lord. He was celebrating the goodness of God. He was worshipping God for who He was and what He had done. He did this with His substance and from his heart. This was a principle he learned from his father.

When we give to God from a heart of love and appreciation, He notices. The connection we have with our offering and God does not go unnoticed by the father. In his instance, King Solomon's gift made such an impression on the Father that He came to Solomon and not only gave Him the desire of his heart, but also wealth, riches and fame that have not been matched to this day.

Similar to the giving style of God our father, Solomon gave to God something that was precious from a heart of appreciation. Thus, displaying the generosity of our God.

Personal Question: What is the most memorable thing about Solomon's offering?

1 Kings 17:11-16 NLT

11 As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too."

12 But she said, "I swear by the Lord your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die."

13 But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son."

14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!"

15 So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days.

While Solomon gave out of his abundance, the woman discussed in this passage of scripture gave out of her need. While we will not find God at a point of need, we can see through this illustration that like this woman God is our source. While in this passage the Lord uses this woman's seed to be a resource for the man of God, He also uses it to be the catalyst for the harvest of the woman. As we shared on Sunday, God is always the source. Even the seeds we return to Him, He has provided.

This woman didn't necessarily give with a grateful heart, but she did give with an obedient one. When give the chose to sow or choke, she didn't choke. She allowed God to use her substance as a harvest for the man of God and in turn, her seed and obedience turned into a harvest for her and her family.

Personal Question: Have you been faced with a similar choice before? _____
If so, did you choke? _____

Matthew 26:6-13 NLT

6 Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy.

7 While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head.

8 The disciples were indignant when they saw this. “What a waste!” they said.

9 “It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.”

10 But Jesus, aware of this, replied, “Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to me?”

11 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.

12 She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial.

13 I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be remembered and discussed.”

In this passage the woman mentioned was one with a poor reputation because of her profession. However, even she recognized the value of Jesus. She literally gave him the most precious, the most expensive gift she had. And she did this because He meant that much to her. Like God, she was willing to give the very best. God himself only has two categories of gifts, Good and Perfect. Like God, this woman gave her very best.

Not that it was her desire to receive anything, however, her precious gift made her renowned, were ever this gospel is preached, she will forever be included.

Personal Question: In surveying your life, identify your precious gift?

Genesis 22:2 NLT

2 “Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.”

Genesis 22:5-8 NLT

5 “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”

6 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together,

7 Isaac turned to Abraham and said, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “We have the fire and the wood,” the boy said, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?”

8 “God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

On Sunday, Pastor unpacked different perspective of Abraham’s view of his children. Abraham had two sons. But God distinguishes Isaac. I thought God didn’t acknowledge Ismael. But it was Abraham who discounted that child. So, God asked for the one he wanted to keep. Like God, Abraham offered the precious, His beloved son. God himself offered His best, His one and only son as a seed that has matured into the Body of Christ, the family of faith.

Abraham was willing to offer Isaac, his beloved son. And because he was willing, his son’s life was spared. The position of Abraham’s heart was also revealed. It was revealed that he loved Isaac, but He loved God more. It was the precedent set in motion by this offering that opened the door for us to receive our savior.

Personal Question: If faced with the choice Abraham was faced with, what would you have done? _____

As we were praying, God said, ***“Every seed is not a personal sacrifice. But, every personal sacrifice is a precious seed.”***

When you release that which is precious, it impacts you and it impacts God. He is well aware of what it means to you. He will then make you well aware of what it means to Him...

Part of why we’re teaching this series is yes, so you will be prosperous financially and materially. But, it’s even more that your heart (soul) will prosper. We want to be a church, that is eager to give, eager to be a part of our God-given mission to Win Souls, Meet Needs, Heal Hurts and love people. Our posture is to become eager to use all that God has entrusted us in a way that brings Him the greatest glory. Our goal is that one day our posture will match god’s posture.