

## *Thank You For Giving to the Lord*

### *Introduction*

- A. **Today, I would like to talk to care givers. This includes those who serve others in whatever capacity they may serve.** This includes giving care in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Caregivers in the home, taking care of family members.
- B. This, also, includes those who serve within the church family. This includes Elders, Deacons, teachers, ministry leaders, Godly mothers and fathers and all those who help to care for others. **This ultimately should include all of us.**
- C. **Today, I want to share my thoughts and ideas for you from my experiences and what I believe to be biblical ideas.**

### *#1: Thank You for Giving to the Lord (Matthew 25:31-40)*

- A. In **Matthew 25**, Jesus gives us a series of three stories that give us an insight into what the kingdom of God will be like. **In the final one, Jesus tells a story of judgment. He makes it clear what God considers most important. He divides mankind into sheep and goats. First, he speaks to the sheep. These are those who have been faithful.**
- B. **Make no mistake about it, Jesus makes clear when you are serving others, you are serving Him.** When the sheep ask the question when did we serve you? Jesus explained that **“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (v. 40).**
- C. We need to realize that when we serve the elderly, or the disabled, when we serve the children at any age, preschool, elementary, Middle School, High School, we are serving the Lord. When we serve the young adults, middle age adults, or whoever, we are serving the Lord.
- D. **When you do your best to treat someone with the dignity that they were created with by God, when you serve, love and care for them, you are giving to the Lord. (My experience: 3 parents taken care of. Words cannot express my gratitude to those who served! You set the example for my own daughter who is currently serving as a social worker at a Nursing Home.)**

### *#2: The Struggle-Burn Out*

- A. **Although, we may understand the importance of what we do, there are still times when we don't know if we can continue to do it.** Certainly, we have good days and we have tough days. We get tired and frustrated and we are ready to quit.
- B. **What do we do when we reach the end of our rope? All those who serve face the frustrations of burn-out. How do we deal with these feelings?**

### #3: *Suggestions*

A. *Realize the value of what you do!* Please understand the majority of us who have or had loved ones who have been cared for by you, treasure you! Your work is a critical part of our society. Sadly, society doesn't seem to value the work you do, but God does and Godly people do!

- Elders, deacons, Ministry leaders-you serve the church and lead it in the right direction.
- School teachers, Bible School teachers-our children
- Prison workers-offer a chance to help people turn their life around,
- Godly mothers and fathers-set the direction of the future of the church, the community, state, nation, and world.
- Caregivers: you take care of our loved ones when we can no longer do so.

B. *Realize that all you can do is all you can do!* I like so much the words from the New Zealand Prayer Book:

**“Lord, it is night.**

**The night is for stillness.**

**Let us be still in the presence of God.**

**It is night after a long day.**

**What has been done has been done.**

**What has not been done has not been done.**

**Let it be.**

**The night is dark.**

**Let our fears of the darkness of this world and of our lives rest in You.**

**The night is quiet.**

**Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

**Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.**

**In your name we pray, Amen.”**

*Note:* The night referred to here is whenever your day is complete. Some may work through the day and night is their rest time or work at night and daytime is your rest time, the principle is the same. You do the best you can while you can, but at some point, you have to let it go or you will not serve anyone effectively.

C. *You need to support your fellow workers.* You need to pray for each other and support each other. This does mean that you hold each other accountable for actions. It also means that we are in this together and it takes all of us working together to be able to take care of the needs effectively. God does not call us to be critics, but to be encouragers! (**Ex: Barnabas-son of encouragement; Hebrews 10:24-25**)

D. *Take time for yourself and your family.* My wife had to teach me this very important lesson. God never calls us to stay so busy serving that we lose our own family or even lose our own life. **We need time for renewal so that we can serve better instead of serving bitter.**

- Physically,
- Emotionally, and
- Spiritually.

**Note:** Jesus took time away from people to spend the night in prayer with His Father (**Luke 4:38-44**). Why did Jesus get up and go out early to be by himself? He spent alone time with His Father (**Luke 6:12-16**). He knew the importance of this time and he offers his love and support (**Matthew 11:28-30**).

**Conclusion:**

**A. Caregivers, do not fail to realize the power of your influence and service to others. You are serving the Lord!**

**B. Finally,** I want to say to you who serve others in whatever capacity that may be: **“Thank You for Giving to the Lord.”-A-cappella Kids.-Play Video**