

**The Lord has need of it – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**

***“ As they \*approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He \*sent two of His disciples, <sup>2</sup> and \*said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he will send it back here.” <sup>4</sup> They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they \*untied it. <sup>5</sup> Some of the bystanders were saying to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup> They spoke to them just as Jesus had told them, and they gave them permission. <sup>7</sup> They \*brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it.” (Mark 11:1-7).***

Beloved in The Lord,

How much are you prepared to give to The Lord? If someone came to you and said “The Lord has need of it”; would you give Him whatever “it” was?

Last week as I read this passage of Scripture, it lead me along this train of thought. How much am I prepared to give The Lord? How much of my time and resources am I willing to give to The Lord? How much of my energy? How much of my life?

How much does God require? The answer is simple – everything? The whole lot. Not only an hour on Sunday, but every hour every day. He requires you to give Him your all – yourself. He is the one who gives you air to breath. He is the one who commands your heart to beat and He is the one who will tell it when it is time to stop.

Last Sunday we considered the truth that God has created us for fellowship with Him. We saw that God created us in order that He may pour out His love upon us, in order that He may live through us. We also saw that it is by reason of sin that the relationship/ fellowship is broken, and that it is Jesus blood that reconciles us to Him again.

Paul writes: ***“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.” (1.Thess.5:9-10)***

Jesus died for us, so that whether we live or die, we live together with Him. As we live together with Him, the question arises, - how much are we prepared to give to Him?

Our answer to this very important question will tell us how much we value Jesus and His Word in our life. The higher we value Him, the more we are prepared to give to Him.

Let us consider what value God places upon us. Does His love have any boundaries? No. God has placed such value upon us that He sacrificed His only Son Jesus for us. Jesus shed His

blood, His Holy innocent blood for us, in order to pay our sin debt in full. The life is in the blood, and Jesus poured out every last drop of His life blood for us.

Paul writes: ***“If God is for us, who is against us?”<sup>32</sup> 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?”***  
***(Romans 8:31-32)***

God so loved us that He did not spare His own Son, but offered Him up for us. Think about it. What a tremendous price to pay for our redemption. How the Father’s heart must have bled and hurt when they mocked Jesus, when they spat on Him, when they beat Him and plucked His beard; when they pressed that crown of thorns on His head; when they whipped Him with those awful whips. How His heart must have been torn when they crucified Him, drove those nails into His hands and feet. How God the Father must have wept when Jesus cried out “Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani - My God, My God why have You forsaken me?” That was an awful moment, an awful cry. Jesus had taken upon Himself all the sin in the world and was at that time separated from The Father.

God did not spare Him, because He does not desire to hear any of us cry out from the pit of Hell: “Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani - My God, My God why have You forsaken me?”

Now back to the question: How much are you prepared to give to The Lord? Is there a limit, or are you prepared to respond to His love for you by giving Him your all?

That is what God requires of us. Paul puts it this way:

***“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”***  
***(Romans 12:1-2)***

In response to God’s tremendous love for us, we are to surrender all to Him. This means ALL. Paul writes that we are to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God. To offer yourself in this way is to surrender your will to God, and to live in obedience to Him. It means to follow His Word. In order to do this we must surrender our ego and pray “Not my will, but Yours be done.”

Paul writes to the Galatians:

***“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”*** (Gal.2:20)

This is what it means to offer yourself to God as a living sacrifice. ***“It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”***

This is what God requires, what He wants from us. God needs you and me to surrender to Him completely. We need to kill off our ego, and live for Him. There is no more blessed step you can take in your life. When we surrender all to Him our life is blessed. We have an abundant life. Our life is fulfilling. We realise our God given potential. We bring God both honour and joy.

When we are totally His, our witness is pure, our salt is salty and our light shines brightly. Our life is like a sweet aroma. The more we surrender to God, the more blessed we are. Your faith grows everyday and with that fear and doubt fly away.

When your life is surrendered to God totally, it is like a beautiful melody, that is in harmony with no discords, no grating sounds.

When your life is surrendered to Him you have peace and joy in your heart. You live secure in the knowledge that you are never alone, that you have a Father who cares for you. Your Father works all things perfectly for your ultimate good.

You have no fear of death, because you know that death is simply a means of transportation home to The Father’s House. When your life is completely surrendered to Him, then you serve Him with joy and you are thankful in and for all things.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians: ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,<sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love<sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace<sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight<sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him<sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him.” (Eph.1:3-10)***

These words written by Paul are so powerful. He says that according to the riches of His grace, He has lavished upon us all wisdom and insight. If you want to live wisely in this world, then you must surrender yourself to Him.

This is stated in the text we looked at earlier about offering ourselves to God. Paul said we are to do that in order that we may know what the will of God is, that which is good and

acceptable and perfect. Do you see how wonderfully and perfectly God's Word all goes together?

I began our thoughts today with the question "How much are you prepared to give to The Lord?" I have repeated this question over and over and will continue to do so. My prayer is that we would all respond with "I surrender all". I pray that God would grant us the wisdom to do that. I pray that whenever the Lord has need of something that we would respond positively and joyfully, for God loves a cheerful giver.

When Isaiah had a vision of God and heard God ask: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" He responded "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6)

Samuel hearing God call His name responded- "Speak Lord for your servant listens."

How will you respond?

Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.