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GIVING YOUR LIFE AWAY

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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GIVING YOUR LIFE AWAY

I. The Art Of Giving Yourself

- A. **II Corinthians 8:1-5** – The Corinthians gave themselves.
 - 1. They entirely disregarded their own personal interests.
- B. **I John 3:16-17** – We ought to lay our lives down for our brethren.
 - 1. Secondly, we should share our possessions.
- C. **John 15:13** – No greater love has any man than to lay down his life for his friends.
- D. **I Thessalonians 2:7-8** – Paul stated that they shared their lives with the people.

II. Many Offer God Their Works, But Not Their Lives.

- A. This is called religion. God wants **relationship**.
 - 1. Right relationship requires the giving of ourselves.
- B. **Isaiah 29:13** – They worship Me with their lips, but their hearts and minds are far from Me.
 - 1. How many go to church on Sunday, sing in the choir, usher, give an offering of money, and never have their minds on God until the next Sunday?
 - 2. **Relationship with God must be more than tradition; it must consume your entire life.**
- C. **Matthew 7:21-23** – *Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father . . .*

D. **I Samuel 15:1-22** – Saul gave a sacrifice instead of obedience.

1. Obedience requires giving yourself.
2. Obedience requires giving your will, which is the central part of yourself.
3. A man's will tells more about him than anything – it reveals what a man wants.

III. Giving Ourselves To People Requires Involvement.

A. Our society today avoids involvement.

1. Involvement always means pain; it means dealing with issues.
2. Involvement means adapting and adjusting to others.
3. Involvement means commitment.
4. Involvement requires us to give up some of our freedom.
5. Involvement takes away some of our time.

B. Involve (defined) – To include as a part. To occupy. **To complicate.** In math it means to raise a number to a specified power.

1. Involvement makes life more complicated because we have to deal with other personalities; we have to consider their desires.
2. Involvement is required if we want to operate in power.
3. One puts a thousand to flight and two, ten thousand.

C. We often fear involvement.

1. Many live phony lives – involvement leaves them vulnerable to being found out.

2. One may think, “If I get involved, you may discover that I am not as bold as I pretend to be. You will see my fears, and I do not want you to know that I have any weaknesses.”
3. Another may think, “If I get involved, you may discover that I am not the spiritual giant that I pretend to be. I have a temper, and you may see it. I am impatient; and if I am involved, I will not be able to hide it.”
4. We despise being vulnerable. Total vulnerability leaves us exposed, and that thought frightens us.

IV. Giving Ourselves To People Requires Commitment.

- A. We desperately need commitment, but often avoid it.
- B. Commitment is a form of accountability that helps us discipline ourselves.
 1. If you commit to pick up three other people and bring them to church, you are more likely to get there.
- C. **Those who are not committed will live idle and unfruitful lives.**
- D. **Titus 3:14** – Paul warned about living idle and unfruitful lives.
 1. Many people today cannot even hold a job because they do not understand commitment.
 2. Commitment means we do it whether or not we feel like it. A committed person has already “set their will.”
 3. **Colossians 3:1-2** – They have already set their mind.
 4. Example: We are preparing to remodel our house. I have had to really set my mind in order to stay committed to the project. The upcoming mess I will have in my house makes me want to back out.

- E. **Lazy** equals doing nothing. **Idle** equals busy doing nothing worthwhile.
- F. **Proverbs 31:27** – The bread of idleness she does not eat.
 - 1. She was a powerful woman and, obviously, a committed woman.
- G. **II Timothy 2:16** – Idleness leads into ungodliness.
- H. **II Thessalonians 3:6-7** – If a fellow believer is idle, then withdraw from him.

BEING COMMITTED KEEPS YOU FROM BEING IDLE!

V. Commitment Will Provide Safety In These End Times.

- A. **Matthew 25:1-13** – The disciples were told a parable of five wise and five foolish virgins and exhorted to remain watchful, cautious, and **ACTIVE**.
- B. The five foolish virgins made a commitment – but got tired of pressing in – and they let it go.
- C. **Luke 14:25-35** – Calculate the cost before getting involved and committed.
 - 1. Share the story of the chicken and the pig.

A man was lying on the side of the road dying from starvation. The chicken said to the pig, “Let’s give this man bacon and eggs and save his life.” The pig said, “Let me think this over. For you, it is an offering; for me, it means total commitment.”

VI. Keep Your Word.

- A. **Psalms 15:4** – Swear to your own hurt and change not.
 - 1. A committed individual is also one of integrity.

- B. What happens if you make a commitment, and you absolutely cannot keep it?
1. Use straightforward, honest communication.
 2. Do not make excuses.
 3. If you made a mistake, admit it.
- C. Do not break a commitment unless there is **no way** you can fulfill it.
- D. Being uncomfortable or inconvenienced is not a valid reason to break a commitment.
- E. Not feeling well physically is not always an acceptable reason.
1. Being seriously ill is one thing; not feeling well is another.
- F. Having personal problems is not always an acceptable reason.
1. Often, the best thing you can do is to keep your commitments while you are hurting; this is what builds character in us.
 2. You should not only keep them, but also do so with a good attitude and without complaining.
- G. Greater commitment would mean less divorces.
- H. Greater commitment would mean less church hoping.
- I. Greater commitment would mean more long-lasting friendships.
- J. Greater commitment would mean more ministry calls fulfilled and brought to completion.
- K. Greater commitment would mean more contented people.
1. People cannot be fulfilled and content unless they are committed.

- L. We are created for deep commitments.

VII. What About Change – Don't We Need Change?

- A. Yes, we need change. Things become stale when they always stay the same all the time.
- B. **Proverbs 24:21** – My son do not associate with those who are given to change of allegiance, and are revolutionary.
- C. **Daniel 2:21** – *He changes the times and the seasons . . .*
 - 1. God does change things – there are seasons for things and seasons when they are over. **BUT MAKE SURE IT IS GOD CALLING FOR CHANGE AND NOT THE FLESH.**
- D. **Romans 11:29** – *For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.]*
 - 1. I am glad God is not fickle like people.

LET US MAKE A COMMITMENT TO BE MORE COMMITTED.

