

Matthew 4:2-4

*And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, '**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**' "*

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness to turn the stones into bread, He didn't, even though He was hungry. But when Jesus knew that the 5,000 and 4,000 men were hungry and they had no food, He performed a miracle and fed them. Simply Jesus did miracles for the needs of others but never for His own needs.

Yet how many times do we seek the Lord for a miracle for ourselves but not for others? Or how many times do we get blessed by the Lord and keep it for ourselves and not bless others with it? I'm not talking just money here, but also our time that we seem to think is so precious that we keep more time for ourselves than ministering or blessing others or doing in the church.

We have talked about the gifts of the Holy Spirit here before. But how much more does it apply to today's devotional verse, and of Jesus not seeing to His own needs, but rather to the needs of others?

Once again we are gifted to minister to the needs of others, not our own needs.

✠ **1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.**

I have the gift of teaching, but how would it be if I just taught myself and not others through the daily devotionals and the website, as well as other times when the Lord uses me to teach. How selfish would that be?

What about financially? Has God blessed you with a job and an income, be it weekly, bi-weekly or monthly? When you get that paycheck, what is the first thing you do with it? Pay your bills then give back to the Lord if there is any left over? And even if there is left over money, do you still procrastinate and try to give as little to the Lord and keep back more for yourself?

The Bible teaches us to give of the first fruits, which in today's time, it means give to God first, yes even before the government (taxes), then take care of your own needs, and if you want to argue with that or have trouble wanting to do that, ask the Lord to change your heart.

One saying goes something like this: What if God paid you each payday based upon your giving? So if you throw ten bucks in the offering, then God should only pay you 90 bucks. Which would add up to 100 dollar, \$10 (tithe) for God and \$90 for you.

But this is more than just money we are talking about here, because there are those who have the gift of giving. Like I said before, maybe you do study the bible or at least feel you could teach it, do you do it for yourself or do you use that gift for others?

Prayers, how much time are your prayers focused with a passion on you, then at the end you will throw in a few words for your family or a friend or two, and maybe for this Nation, if you got an extra 10 seconds to spare.

The world has taught us from childhood through TV, movies, music, magazines, the internet and even your friends and family to think of yourself first. But that's not what Jesus taught us, He taught us different and not just in words, but also by example that we are to think of others first.

You may have heard this before, but do you know what the word "JOY" means?

Jesus

Others

Yourself

If you put it in any other order, there is no JOY

How did Jesus find JOY, actually He had GO, which is what He told us to do.

God

Others

So start having JOY in your life and GO like Jesus told us to, putting Him and others first.

† **Mark 16:15** *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*