

## THE LIFE GOD GIVES

### Luke 19:41-42

**Introduction:** This message is in total and it is from a very concerned pastor for his congregation. Take from these words what you might be able to apply to your own congregation.

As I watch you, daily, Sundays, my heart is broken for many of you are not living any different than non Christians.

- There's not ugly words/language, not shakey marriages, not unruly children, etc.
- You are not living the life God has for His own! You are not enjoying fellowship with Jesus, you are not free from burdens and worry.
- Your present life is no different from your lost neighbors and they, too are loaded down with difficulties, also barely scratching out a living, trying to survive and just can't enjoy life.

Is this all God has to offer? Does God not have anything to offer His children in this life?

- When you accepted Christ, was baptized, became a church member, did you settle down and say, "This is it!? This is all until I leave this world. There is nothing to have until Jesus comes for me.." Sadly, this is the attitude of hundred of thousands.
- How mistaken you are! You have been blinded by Satan. Being saved, becoming a Christian was only scratching the surface of what God has for you. You haven't even begun to know all that God has for you.
- God never intended for you to stay like the rest of the world! He has so much for you. This life is not a punishment, not just a period of waiting for His call into eternity, it is not something to be just endured.
- This life is meant by God to be a happy life, a period of physical enjoyment, a time of fellowship.

I see your sad, tired, downcast eyes. I see your bodies almost too weary to go another day and it breaks MY heart! OH, MY PEOPLE!!! This is not God's intentions for you! You are blinded by Satan to God's gifts. You are chained, burdened by Satan. God's children are NOT to live a life such as this!

We see people saved, etc...and then shortly they begin to lapse back into the same old rut - WHY? Isn't God able to care for His own? Satan certainly seems to be stronger...isn't God able to give a new life to His own?

Ever see a happy Christian? One who is always happy, seems to have something you don't have? MY, if you could only be like that, as happy as they are you think.

- Well YOU CAN! You can have what they have, you can do away with that heavy life, you can have God's life, you can be like that one you saw and admired.

The early Christians had something! Non Christians saw it. It wasn't a life like you've been living. Your life hasn't been any better than the non-Christian's life. No one certainly has been admiring your life for it has not been any different than theirs. Early Christians were asked, "What made them so happy?" "Why so friendly?"

I weep when I read about the early Christians, see their lives, and then look at Christians today. NO Wonder the world is 75% lost, that preachers are leaving the ministry, a 30:1 ratio, Christians to win a single lost person, churches half-full, no great in-pouring of souls. Satan has such a hold on today's world.

Christians of today are not happy, not enthusiastic over anything, not soul-winners, not influencing their world for the Lord Jesus - WHY?

Christians today don't have anything to be happy about. Saved? Yes, bound for heaven? Yes (but that's in the future). They don't have an exciting story to tell. They can't talk about things they don't know anything about. They can't speak of something they've not experienced. THAT'S WHY! Today's Christians are not like the early Christians.

Christians today don't have anything to say. They don't have some wonderful story they can't keep quiet about. They don't have a different life to be happy about. They've never experienced the life God has for them. They don't even know it's there for them.

Like Salvation, this new life is a gift! You asked for salvation and received it, so you must ask for the life God wants to give you.

- Jesus said, "***...Ye have not because ye ask not...***" "***...If two of you agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them...***" "***...Whatsoever thing you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them....***" "***...And whatsoever you ask in my name that will I do...***" "***...Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you...***" "***...I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly...***"
- DON'T YOU WANT ALL GOD HAS FOR YOU? Don't you want a happy, free life as God would give you?

Do you want to experience the abundant life God gives to those who ask?

Do you want to live each day to its limit, anxious for the morrow and its happiness?

Do you want to have such a vibrant, alive, fresh, beautiful life that others will look at you in amazement?

Do you want others to ask you, "What makes you so different?"

HERE is how you, too, can have an exciting, happy, SPIRIT- filled life:

- Restate your beliefs, etc., Thank God for saving you, Praise His name.
- Ask God for forgiveness of your sins. Ask God to remind you of any forgotten sins you may have. Thank Him, then Praise His name.
- Ask God to completely fill you with the Holy Spirit. Thank Him, Praise His name.
- Now ask God to give you the life He has for you, the life He wants you to have, the powers, the gifts which go with this new life. Thank Him for it, Praise His name.

MY PEOPLE! All things are yours! Especially a happy, exciting life while on this earth. "***...Ye have not because ye ask not...***" If you ask anything in the name of Jesus, you shall receive it!

ASK GOD! Believe He has already answered your prayer. Thank Him, THEN for answering it, praise His name.

Have I been talking to you? Are YOU tired of living a common, ordinary burdensome life? Do you want this new life God has for you? Then ask God for it - RIGHT NOW !