

## THOUGHTS FOR SERMONS

### "One Sided Asking vrs One Sided Giving"

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** There are always those who care more about what you can do for them than for who you really are. There are those who habitually come around looking for a little "hand-out" but never offer to do anything to "pay back." There are those who constantly ask the same person to "baby-sit" for just a little while or those who always seem to be in some sort of difficulty and need "you" to step in and help. They never offer any help back in any way at any time, just want something for themselves. Friends are exceptions for they return the favor or offer to help in some way back for the assistance they were given. In other words, people are used by others to get what they want or to go where they want to go and after a while it begins to hurt the one doing all the giving and helping.

1. Do YOU ever do that to others? Have you ever used someone for what you could get out of them with no real thought of being close friends?
  - Have YOU ever used someone more than you actually loved him/her?
  - Have YOU ever treated someone as an object a quick answer to a pressing need?
2. Have WE ever done that to the ONE PERSON who loves us freely and deeply?
  - Have WE ever gone to HIM not to be in His presence, nor give much attention to, but to get something from HIM, something for our own good and not His glory?
  - Have WE ever treated the Lord Jesus in the same kind or way that others have treated us, always asking for something but NEVER offering anything back?
3. Do WE follow Jesus for what we can get out of Him and not because of a deep love for Him and actually trust Him as our Savior and Shepherd?
  - Do WE look forward to personal satisfaction more than knowing and worshipping HIM?
  - Do WE not seek HIS help when we need something (finances, job promotion, health issue, family situation, etc?) and seldom go to Him without asking for something?
  - Do WE pursue Jesus mostly to get something we feel we need or want and when we don't get it react bitterly toward HIM when/if we don't get what we wanted?
  - Do WE forget about being with Jesus after He does grant our request/prayer?
4. Being used by another person really hurts, but do WE not do the same thing to God most of the time?

### CONCLUSION:

1. What can we do about treating Jesus as others treat us at times?
2. Let us seek the one who blesses, not just to be blessed, not just for His benefits, let us seek God, Himself for who HE is.
3. Let us remember that it is through HIS mercy that we have everlasting life!