

March 2010

Servants of Excellence

Encouraging pregnancy care center volunteer & paid staff

What revs my spiritual engine each day?

By Kirk Walden, Publisher of The LifeTrends Connection

“Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.’” John 4:34



When we look at Jesus’ interaction with the woman at the well, the disciples are out at the local markets gathering food for later on. When they return—after the woman had left—they (v. 31) remind Jesus that He needs to eat. Don’t we all?

Here, Jesus is somewhat mysterious as He tries to make a point. In v. 32 He tells his disciples, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” Hmmm. Where is He going with this?

When the disciples press Jesus for more information, He shares an amazing truth: His food, His nourishment—what sustains Jesus—is doing His Father’s will *and* (and this is a big “and”) “accomplishing His work.”

When we look at Jesus, we see a man focused on accomplishing a vital task: Advancing His Father’s kingdom. Sometimes I can get so caught up in whether God is doing something for *me* that I forget that the man I’m following—Jesus—never focused on what He could get from His own Father. Does God give good gifts? Certainly (James 1:17). But if we look at Jesus’ life—and those of His ardent followers (like us, right?), their attention is on what they can do to glorify God.

For examples, we can look at Stephen at his stoning, Paul in jail, Peter in the book of Acts, John in exile. The list goes on.

As a believer of some 30 years and counting, this is still a challenge. While there is nothing wrong at all in asking God to move in my life or perhaps even to give a gift that I desire, the question I’ve got to ask—and perhaps many of us as well—is, “Where is my focus?”

When I consider my “food”—as Jesus strikingly points out while talking to the disciples—is it to do my adoptive Father’s will and to accomplish His purposes here on Earth? Or is my nourishment coming from elsewhere? Here’s a question that strikes home with me: “Am I more captivated by an opportunity to impact the kingdom of God? Or am I more enthralled by the thought of an upcoming vacation?”

The good news is that even *if* that question is difficult for me today, all I need to do is change focus. God isn’t asking me to blubber alligator tears over my lack of concern for His purposes. Instead He *invites* me to join Stephen, Paul, Peter and so many others who—as we can see in the pages of Scripture—chose to join Jesus in saying, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.”

Servants of Excellence is a LifeTrends publication
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