

4EVER! Would Be a Rather Lonely Place... If I Won at This Life and YOU Didn't

It's been written that it's better to give than to receive.

And I'm here to tell you that I've come to believe that's absolutely true.

Because life is not about what we accumulate around us here.

True life—eternal life—is about learning how to give away everything that we can in this life—before death wrests what's left from our cold and mouldering hands.

Now, that may not sound like much of a sales pitch.

So let me tell you what's in it for YOU.

YOU.

The YOU—you were always meant to be.

Because I have come to believe that Mercy does not repair the world through the balance sheets of the receivers by the act of receiving.

Mercy repairs We the Givers—We the Merciful—through the act giving.

And this is how Elohim has always intended to repair the world one GIVER at a time.

Not one receiver at a time.

And that does not make the receiver—unimportant—far from it.

The person who is hungry still needs food.

The thirsty still need water.

The naked, clothes.

The strangers in a strange land, welcome.

The sick, healing.

The lonely who are imprisoned by the circumstances of their own lives still need company and training and dignifying jobs to do in this world.

And just like taxes will always need paying, our dead loved ones will always need burying—with solemnity and the kind remembrance of 4EVER!

And perhaps most importantly, the person standing right in front of you right on the streets where you and I live still needs the YOU inside of you to honor the interruption their life is interposing into yours.

But there's something else, too—something deeper— that's happening in these Divine Nows — these Divine Moments of Lasting Peace.

When YOU DO stop long enough to care—and to give—the receiver receives Grace they did not earn and could probably never buy.

This is true.

AND—My Friends—YOU... The Giver receive something even more astonishing:

YOU experience what it means to be—A GIVER.

A winner in this life—and not a loser—as Jesus puts it plainly in Matthew 25.

This is the experience of being a SHEEP instead of a GOAT.

It's just as simple as that.

Because, perhaps the receiver—having tasted of a Perpetual Enigma of Grace—now starts to become a giver—too—or perhaps remembers the giver that they were once called to be and commits themselves—afresh—to the process of sanctifying themselves as an ultimate giver with a vigor they haven't known in weeks, or months, or years, or perhaps a whole lifetime of tears of regret gone by.

Then somebody else experiences being a giver.

And somebody else too.

And somebody else does, too.

Until Mercy begins doing something no charitable accounting system could ever adequately measure.

Mercy reproduces itself in YOU—and YOU—and YOUandYOUandYOU.

This is why I am increasingly willing to say something spiritual teachers may occasionally be a little reluctant to say out loud:

I want YOU to Help Mercy Abound for perfectly practically selfish reasons of your own.

Do it for YOU.

Because there are things in this life that you can accumulate only by giving them away—completely.

Mercy is one of these.

Grace is vaunted to be another.

And Lasting Peace—oh—Lasting Peace may be the greatest of them all.

The arithmetic of the knowledge of good and evil we so often rush to apply—is completely backward.

If you have a dollar and give me your dollar—or perhaps half of it—you have just that much less money in your pocket.

But if you have Mercy in your heart and give some of your Mercy to me, somehow there is now more Mercy between us than there was when we were first interrupted by Grace.

In this case... I have experienced receiving Mercy from you.

But more importantly, YOU have experienced the Grace and Peace of being one of the givers in this life — one of WE the MERCIFUL.

And if this shared experience we now have — as one moment in time — helps turn ME into the next giver—

Well... Then YOU have done an infinitely wonderful thing for you and every YOU that shall follow in your footsteps—just as you have now FAITHFULLY followed Christ in Jesus's footsteps, too.

Because every time another giver like YOU gives...

Mercy moves—and Mercy grows—again and again and again...

As the ever-growing laughter within the Law in YOU.

The ever-growing laughter of Elohim that cannot—HELP—but to fulfill the Law in YOU.

That is the joke Grace plays every hour of every day on our pitifully carefully calculating sinful selves.

And that is why the greatest question we can ask ourselves about our charity isn't merely:

How many people did we help?

It's:

How many givers did we help Elohim create?

Because I cannot fix humanity by my mere giving.

You cannot fix humanity by yours.

Governments cannot fix humanity.

Churches cannot fix humanity.

And technology certainly cannot fix humanity...

In and of themselves.

But in the moment when somebody else's needs interrupt YOUR carefully scheduled life—and YOU stop — to do something about that for good—Elohim is offering YOU one tiny enigmatic opportunity to participate in the repair of the one human being you can actually do something about:

YOU!

And perhaps, while that's happening, something rather wonderful happens to ME, the person you helped, too.

Which is why I no longer think ALTRUISM quite captures ALL of what Mercy might be all about.

Don't get me wrong... altruism is a wonderful thing that we should all pursue with as much vigor as we can.

We all want Lasting Peace.

We all want the Kingdom.

We all want the banquet.

We all want to win a GOLDEN TICKET to the paradise of 4EVER!

Indeed we do!

And yet, I've finally realized something terribly inconvenient:

4EVER! would be a rather lonely place... if I won at this life and YOU didn't.

So I have a profoundly selfish interest in YOU flourishing.

In YOU abounding.

In YOU — WINNING!

I WANT YOU to be with me at the WINNERS TABLE beyond the end of time.

I need YOU at the the Winners Table, so that I won't be more lonely than I should be.

And look into your own hearts for a second...

YOU need other YOUs just like YOU there at the Winners Table with YOU, too.

YOU need this.

And THEY need some other you much like YOU there with them too, so that we all might win as SHEEP always truly do—TOGETHER.

And you know that we all cannot resist filling up this Elohim-sized hole—as some call it—in each and every one of us...

Until ALL of us MEs and you YOUs discover the greatest Perpetual Enigma of Grace of them all:

That the ME I was always meant to be, and the YOU that you were always meant to be, can only become what we were always meant to be on the whole when:

Each of us shall only and finally become the ME and YOU that you and I were always meant to be when all of us together—become the WE—we were always meant to be — in the first place.

So... HELP MERCY ABOUND for the good of humanity?

Certainly.

HELP MERCY ABOUND for the folks sitting next to you and me today.

Sure.

HELP MERCY ABOUND because that's our greatest hope for distributing the things that everyone needs in this life—equitably around the whole wide world?

Absolutely.

But—at the end of the day:

LET'S HELP MERCY ABOUND

Simply for our own perfectly practically own selfish reasons of WINNING together AS ONE in the end...

Let us COMMIT ourselves TODAY to adorning the inventory in our own treasure houses of well-being with little pieces of the Perpetual Enigmas of Grace™ which are the only timeless hinges in this life that can add up to something that enliven our own sense of Lasting Peace within ourselves—even as we help Elohim help us fix ourselves because we do the most we can to help him help ME and YOU:

HELP MERCY ABOUND TO THE MAXX.

And that's where my little 45-second song called "Mercy Has No End" says it all:



All it takes is just one raindrop...
Just one voice...
One candle in the wind.

All it takes is just one bit of bread...
Shared with needy friends.

All it takes is just one pitter-pat...
Someone knocking to attend.

And once it all gets started...

[🎵 IN YOU 🎵]

MERCY HAS NO END.

