

What Does God Expect?

Mark 12:28-31



God wants what is first..

- Genesis 4:4 Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering..
- Exod 23:16,19 The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God.
- Deut 26:1-10 I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Lord, have given me.' "Then you shall set it before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God.
- Lev. 2:14 grain offering ..
- Numb 15:20-21 first loaf of dough..

God wanted the firstborn..

- Exodus 13:2 "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine."
- Exodus 13:12-16 you shall set apart to the Lord all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the Lord's... all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.
- Numbers 3:11-13 behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore the Levites shall be Mine, 13 because all the firstborn are Mine.

Honoring the Lord ..

- Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
- Malachi 1:6-13 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' 7 "You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.' 8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?"

What Jesus taught..

- Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- Luke 9:59-62 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." 61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

God made us His first..

- Exod 4:22-23 Israel called God's firstborn ..
- Gal 3:28-29; 6:16 We are now called the seed of Abraham, Israel of God..
- 2 Thess 2:13 God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth
- Hebrews 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect

You'll lose what you put before God..

- Luke 10:38-42 "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."
- Luke 9:23-24 "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."

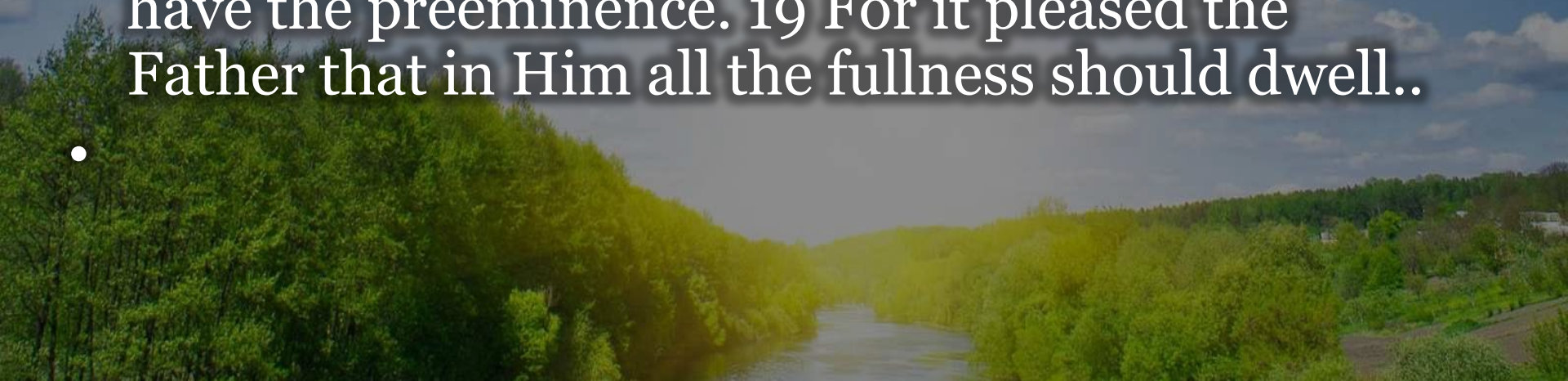
God gave His first..

- Hebrews 1:6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

God gave His first..

- 1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- Colossians 1:18-19 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell..

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Are you giving Him your best?

- None of us are... yet God accepts us when we give Him our hearts...
- Mark 12:28-31: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

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