

Meditations
for those who give time, talent,
prayer or gifts

Giving
In The King's Service

by
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and
Flo Martin

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Giving In the King's Service

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Summary: A compilation of stories, thoughts and Bible verses to encourage Christian volunteers and donors.

(1. Devotions and meditations

(2. Bible - Helpful verses for those serving God.

Dedicated
to those who have faithfully
served the King
by giving their time, talent, prayers or gifts
in Crisis Pregnancy Centers
and Christian ministries everywhere.

Let your light shine through me, Lord,
To touch the hurt and lost.
The ones You gave Your life to save
And paid the greatest cost.

A song, a word, a smile, a touch,
Lord, show me what to do.
I know to them it would mean so much
If through me they see You.

My life is Yours. My heart is Yours.
Lord, show me what to say,
To show Your love and life to them
And lead them in the Way.

Flo Martin

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Preface

One of the most defining moments in our lives is that place in time when we declare to our Lord God, “I am yours. I will go anywhere you send me. I will do anything you ask of me. All my possessions are yours.”

At that moment, we become a volunteer in the service of the King!

The following little stories and meditations are based on real questions and heart cries that we both have had as we serve our King.

We pray that, as you meditate on His Word, God will minister His loving touch to you and to the needs of your heart.

Called to Serve

“And live a life of love,
just as Christ loved us . . . as a fragrant offering
and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:2)



Chapter 1

Why Me Lord? I Feel So Inadequate!

Flo Martin

Are you sometimes battered by the thoughts of your own past? Do you ever think thoughts like... “How can I make a difference in someone else’s life after all the mistakes I have made in my own life?” or “I am far too weak and have far too many problems myself to be able to help others.” These kinds of thoughts are so normal. We have all had them at times.

This is one of the tricks of the enemy – to try to keep us from taking our rightful place as the new man or woman that God has created us to be. These thoughts of our own inadequacies have been used against us from the beginning of time. Moses himself was used greatly by God to lead His people to the land that God had promised them. Yet, he was so very aware of his own weaknesses that he had a hard time believing that God could use him.

Please take time to read the following verses prayerfully asking God to reveal to you how He is able to use you, just as you are.

Messages from Our King

“But now, this is what the Lord says – He who created you – ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.’”

(Isaiah 43:1)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

“Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant — not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6)

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

“My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your feet slip – He who watches over you will not slumber.” (Psalm 121:2,3)

“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.” (1 Corinthians 1:27)



Chapter 2

You Want Me to Do What?

Mareta Keener

Put a coat on a shivering orphaned child?

Give when I can barely pay my own bills?

Save a baby from being torn from her mother's womb?

Restore dignity and self worth to an abused woman?

Comfort and give hope to those who mourn?

You want me to do these things?

The King says, "Yes, I will do these things through you. But remember, without Me, you can do nothing."
(author's paraphrase of John 15:3-5)

In the King's service, some serve Him on the front lines and some serve Him by supporting those on the front lines.

You may breathe a sigh of relief. "Wow, I don't know how I could do those things. I can be a supporter, in fact I guess I am one."

But then the doubts come. How easy it is to wonder if our gifts of money; our time sorting or mending clothes, stuffing envelopes, and updating records; or our time spent in prayer is really accomplishing what the King has

called us to do.

Dear Servant of the King, if you are abiding in Him and He is abiding in you, you are an essential part of His work and your labor is not in vain, whatever you do. And your service is as precious to the King as those who have actual contact with the hurting ones. You labor by their side and you are their lifeline.

Messages from Our King

(God's Words) "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy, deliver them from the hand of the wicked." (Psalm 82:3,4)

"Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

"For He will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help." (Psalm 72:12)

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (Hebrews 13:16)

(Jesus' words) "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to

drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

The king will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’” (Matthew 25:35,36,40)



Chapter 3

But Lord, I'm Too Busy – and You Want Me to Give More?

Mareta Keener

Have you felt the soft nudging of the King to give even more of your time, talents or money into His service? Sometimes His nudging isn't so soft. It's glaringly clear!

When the King called me to put on a clown outfit and become the Life Clown to celebrate the life of unborn babies at fairs and parades, I wondered if I had heard him right. I was in my fifties, working part time, teaching two Bible studies, volunteering at the crisis pregnancy center, and had never been a clown before.

“Lord, I don't know – this seems a little crazy and besides, what will people think.” And then it hit me. No one would know who I was. I could prance down the street with my pink halo hair and my broad painted smile, holding my rag-doll clown above my head while whirling myself around and around, celebrating her life. What a privilege! What a blast!

“Yes, I'll do it!” Little did I know that my King had orchestrated this ministry for me to bless me with his healing touch. Years earlier, my first to-be-born grandchild had been aborted. My heart still grieved. God knew this

and He tenderly touched my heart as I began my clown journey down Market Street.

As I held my rag dolly high above my head and whirled around, I began to realize that I was celebrating the life of my grandson, this little child who was snatched away before birth. I hugged my doll clown in my arms and raised her high again. It was good and it was healing. And the King walked with me.

Have you found it exciting to be in the service of the King? He requires full commitment, but as we yield to His commands, He often reveals hidden treasures along the way.

Messages from Our King

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.” (Colossians 3:23,24)

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself, said: ‘It is more blessed to give than receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.” (Ephesians 6:7)

“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure,

pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)



Chapter 4

Lord, What Would You Have Me To Give?

Flo Martin

There was a large crowd of people who had come to see Jesus. When He saw them He had compassion on them. He healed them and taught them many things. His words touched their hearts in a way they had never felt before. No one wanted to leave or go home. They wanted to hear more. Their hunger for His words far outweighed their hunger for food. But it was getting late and Jesus' disciples were worried. Let's look at the story as it was told in Mark.

Mark 6:34-44

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, “That would take eight months of a man’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.”

In this passage I want you to notice that Jesus did not ask the disciples to give more than what they had. When He first told them to feed the crowd, they panicked because they knew they did not have enough. But Jesus only asked them for what they did have. And God was able to take what the disciples had and make it into more than enough to meet the need.

Sometimes when we think of giving, fear wells up in our hearts. We are afraid that we will not have enough to meet the need. We are afraid that there will be nothing left for us to provide for ourselves. We are fearful of

so many things. But when you choose to begin to walk in obedience to God's call to give, you will come to know better the One who is a God of more than enough. He is so able to provide for all that you have need of. He will never forsake you. Open your heart to Him and ask Him what He would have you give. Then simply walk in obedience to His call and watch and be amazed. What an awesome God we serve.

Messages from Our King

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42)

"Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'" (Matthew 19:21)

"But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:31-34)

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8)