

a Devotion from LUKE 12:48 & MARK 10:45

*Not to be Ministered Unto, But to Minister, for Much is Required*

Robert Baral  
10/21/2009

## **I. Introduction**

Last week some of my Chaplain colleagues attended a ministry event at a certain facility where, engraved on a certain wall, were The Words, “To Whom much is given, much is required.” Or in The KJV, “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall... much [be] required...”<sup>1</sup>

This is a quote from LUKE 12:48. Now it so happens, that in the Catholic daily Scripture reading schedule [i.e., lectionary], The Gospel reading for Wednesday, October 21, 2009 - today - is The same LUKE 12:39-48.<sup>2</sup>

And it just so happens that this is the day on which my lot falls to offer a Devotion. And this being my last Devotion that I will offer here, it seems good to offer some thoughts on This Text!

---

<sup>1</sup> 1, KJV, LUKE 12:48.

<sup>2</sup> 2, The Magnificat, “A Reading from The Holy Gospel according to LUKE 12:39-48.” Volume 11, Number 8, October 2009, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>, p 299-300.

## **II. LUKE 12:39-48 – As Much is Given, Much is Required**

<sup>39</sup> [JESUS said,] Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

<sup>40</sup> You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, The Son of Man will come.

<sup>41</sup> Then Peter said, Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?

<sup>42</sup> And The Lord replied, Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute (the) food allowance at the proper time?

<sup>43</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so.

<sup>44</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property....

<sup>48</sup> ...*Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.*<sup>3</sup>

## **MARK 10:45 – Not to be Ministered Unto, But to Minister**

[JESUS said,] For even The Son of Man *came not to be ministered unto, but to minister*, and to give His life a ransom for many.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> 3, NAB, LUKE 12:39-48.

<sup>4</sup> 1, KJV, MARK 10:45. See also MATTHEW 20:28.

### **III. Not to Be Ministered Unto, But to Minister**

“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much.” [LUKE 12:48] JESUS is speaking about us, for “although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart. You have become slaves of righteousness.” [ROMANS 6:17-18] When will still more be demanded of us? “At an hour you do not expect!” [LUKE 12:40] <sup>5</sup>

The Work of Ministry is not “mine” or “yours,” nor even really “ours,” but His. The Work belongs to The King of The Universe. GOD uses us for a time to the extent we submit to His Purposes, according to His Grace, for His Work. The LORD is there, acting through others, before we arrive. He is there using us, and others, while we are present with those we minister to. And He is there after we depart, sending by His Providence others of so many backgrounds.

Being in Ministry is a serious Charge from GOD upon we His servants. We are not passive vessels, but active participants in His Mercy. We as Chaplains are called to be His faithful and humble servants, giving of ourselves to GOD and others. And the more we are entrusted with, the more is demanded of us.

So as I was thinking of This Text, I recently noticed a plaque on the wall inside the hospital front entrance behind the valet parking office opposite the hospital operator’s window. The wall is dark and so is the plaque. You can easily miss it. It reads, “THE GEORGE F. GEISINGER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL – ERECTED AND ENDOWED IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE FRANCIS GEISINGER – 1821 – 1883. BY HIS WIFE ABIGAIL ANN GEISINGER. A. D. 1915. ***‘NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO, BUT TO MINISTER.’***”

---

<sup>5</sup> 2, The Magnificat, .” Volume 11, Number 8, October 2009, p 297.

This second Text is from MARK10:45, “For even The Son of Man ***came not to be ministered unto, but to minister***, and to give His life a ransom for many.”<sup>6</sup> Why did The Lord say These Words? Two of The Disciples, James and John the sons of Zebedee, asked JESUS to place them at his right and left hands in Heaven.<sup>7</sup>

But The Master corrected them, “...whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.” For even, and especially, The Messiah Himself “***came not to be ministered unto, but to minister!***”<sup>8</sup> If we are His servants, we must seek to do no less.

---

<sup>6</sup> 1, KJV, MARK 10:45. See also MATTHEW 20:28.

<sup>7</sup> 1, KJV, MARK 10:35-37.

<sup>8</sup> 1, KJV, MARK 10:43-45.

#### **IV. Why are We Serving in Ministry?**

It seems to me These two Texts compliment each other in describing the ministry mission here as hospital Chaplains. On the one hand, “***Much will be required of the person entrusted with much...***”<sup>9</sup> On the other hand, we come “***...not to be ministered unto, but to minister.***”<sup>10</sup> This is how I understand The Calling Mrs. Geisinger answered in founding this hospital, and calls us to embrace as well.

How do we carry out this Mission? In the flesh seeking our own sense of self importance by devouring our colleagues to build our own sense of self glory? Or in The Spirit, with a sense of humility of self giving, by laboring together to build up The Kingdom of GOD and loving others for His Glory?

In GALATIANS 5 Saint Paul urges us to live in The Spirit and not in the flesh<sup>11</sup> and to love one another.<sup>12</sup> The reality is that, in this life, we are both spirit and flesh. Even we in Ministry, we all have “growing edges” and none of us are yet perfected. But let us note this: that service in Ministry, where ever we serve, is a privilege and not a right.

---

<sup>9</sup> 3, NAB, LUKE 12:48.

<sup>10</sup> 1, KJV, MARK 10:45.

<sup>11</sup> 3, NAB, GALATIANS 5:15-26.

<sup>12</sup> 3, NAB, GALATIANS 5:14.

And the greater The Calling GOD gives us, the greater The Grace He pours out on us, that we may better minister as His faithful servants!<sup>13</sup> Thus our great need to labor in our Master's vineyards in The Fruits of The Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."<sup>14</sup>

As we minister, let us keep in mind that our neighbor whom we are called to love includes – not only patients, families, visitors and other staff – but also one another, even our fellow servants! And when our service is done, may we then all hear The joyous Words from our Eternal Master, "Well done, My good and faithful servant[s]... Come, share your Master's joy!"<sup>15</sup> For "...unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall... much [be] required...!"<sup>16</sup>

Thus, the more we are entrusted with, the more is required of us. As Mrs. Geisinger had inscribed at the dedication of this hospital system, ***"NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO, BUT TO MINISTER." FOR MUCH IS REQUIRED OF US.***

---

<sup>13</sup> 3, NAB, II KINGS 2:9.

<sup>14</sup> 3, NAB, GALATIANS 5:22-23.

<sup>15</sup> 3, NAB, MATTHEW 25:21.

<sup>16</sup> 1, KJV, LUKE 12:48.

## **V. A Closing Prayer**

Let us come together before The LORD  
Each according to our own Tradition.

The LORD be with you!  
And also with you!

[silence]

O Eternal Master,  
May we as Your servants  
receive The Grace we need  
for each of us to carry out  
our Calling in Ministry,  
not forgetting that we are called,  
in loving You and others,  
we are as much called  
to also love our fellow servants.  
For Yours is The Kingdom, The Power and The Glory!

And now, may The LORD bless us and keep us.  
May The LORD make the light of His face  
to shine upon us and be gracious to us.  
May The LORD uplift us all  
with His mighty outstretched hand.  
May The LORD always surround us and fill us  
with His loving Presence  
And give us His Peace now and forever. <sup>17</sup>

AMEN!

Let us go forth to love and serve The LORD – and one  
another!  
Thanks be to GOD!

---

<sup>17</sup> Adapted from NUMBERS 6:24-26.



## **VI. References**

1. “King James Version” Bible. Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.
2. “The Magnificat.” The Catholic Herald, Ltd. Yonkers, New York. Volume 11, Number 8, October 2009
3. “New American Bible.” Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.