

"He must increase, but I must decrease"

John 3:30

The world is divided between "Givers" and "Takers"

In which of the two groups do we see ourselves?

1. Those who give are driven by a noble purpose that is outside themselves

"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled"

John 3:29

2. They are very much aware of whom they are and what they are called for

Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD"

John 1:22-23

3. They give and are given even when there is no return

"And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved."

2 Corinthians 12:15

4. They accept loss while moving towards their treasure

"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Matthew 16:25

5. They do not rest until they find a place of rest for the Mighty One of Jacob

I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, Until I find a place for the LORD, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

Psalm 132:4-5

6. The best among them are those who still give even while being reproached

"Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat."

1 Corinthians 4:12

Characteristics of "Givers"

- 1. They are driven by a noble purpose that is outside themselves
- 2. They are very much aware of whom they are and what they are called for
- 3. They give and are given even when there is no return
- 4. They accept loss while moving towards their treasure
- 5. They do not rest until they find a place of rest for the Mighty One of Jacob
- 6. The best among them are those who still give even while being reproached