

The Pursuit of Satisfaction and Approval

Each one of us has experienced praise and blame since childhood, so we are shaped by acceptance and rejection, day after day until old age.

In the animal world it is important that the strongest prevails, whether by cunning, intelligence or strength. Is it not similar with humans? Are we always considerate, loving and nonviolent to our fellow human beings?

We humans are blessed with the gift of compassion and discernment, knowing what is good for us and what will harm us. As we strengthen the positive power in ourselves and in our fellowmen, we will reap joy and satisfaction. By being too critical and judgemental, we will reap rejection and strife.

"Be merciful, even as your Father in heaven is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Luk 6, 36-38)

When Jesus spoke to people he repeatedly used parables:

"Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye." (Luk 6, 39-42)

In God's love we will find comfort and satisfaction. The pursuit for vain happiness and people's approval is replaced by God's steadfast love and peace.

The virtues of compassion, mercy and selfless service will promote our inner harmony and happiness.

Selfless service is acting without self-interest.

A man, who reduces his self-interest, will not search for worldly success, but for godly peace.

A spiritual life is a life for love and in love. Honoring and serving love will establish unshakeable peace and joy.

Neither praise nor blame are determining our lives now, as we are consciously turning to eternal bliss in Jesus Christ. The short times of transitory happiness are replaced by the constant love of the Holy Spirit. The search for worldly recognition has ended.

God's magnificent power and love are sweetening our lives now.

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