Giving Our Best To The Master - Malachi 1

Introduction:
A. As the religious world celebrates this “Easter” - we as Christians know that what God has done for us - has always been the very best that He has to offer and when I look at our hymn books - There is a song that reads - # 388 ---- “Give of Your Best To The Master”

1. Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth. Throw your soul’s fresh, glowing ardor Into the battle for truth. Jesus has set the example, Dauntless was He, young and brave. Give Him your loyal devotion; Give Him the best that you have.
   a. Refrain : Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth. Clad in salvation’s full armor, Join in the battle for truth.

2. Give of your best to the Master; Give Him first place in your heart. Give Him first place in your service; Consecrate every part. Give, and to you will be given; God His beloved Son gave. Gratefully seeking to serve Him, Give Him the best that you have. ---- Refrain

3. Give of your best to the Master; Naught else is worthy His love. He gave Himself for your ransom, Gave up His glory above. Laid down His life without murmur, You from sin’s ruin to save. Give Him your heart’s adoration; Give Him the best that you have. ---- Refrain

B. What do we mean by Give Our BEST?
1. Marian Webster’s Dictionary says - “The Best”
   a. : better than all others in quality or value
   b. : most skillful, talented, or successful
   c. : most appropriate, useful, or helpful

2. Let us consider this definition and examine ourselves - when we give the best is it?
   a. Not just what we consider “good”
   b. Not that which may be “better” than most
   c. But that which is “best” ---- Numbers 18:12,29,30; Ex 22:29

   (1) Numbers 18:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 “All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the Lord, I have given them to you.

   (2) Numbers 18:29-30 (NKJV) ---- 29 Of all your gifts you shall offer up every heave offering due to the Lord, from all the best of them, the consecrated part of them.’ 30 Therefore you shall say to them: ‘When you have lifted up the best of it, then the rest shall be accounted to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor and as the produce of the winepress.

   (3) Exodus 22:29 (NKJV) ---- 29 “You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.

d. Remember we as Christians are exhorted to offer ourselves as a “living sacrifice” - Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) ---- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

C. Consider God’s Instructions regarding this in the Old Testament:
1. The Firstfruits
   a. God demanded the firstfruits (Prov 3:9; Deut 26:1,2; Ex 23:19)

   (1) Proverbs 3:9 (NKJV) ---- 9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

   (2) Deuteronomy 26:1-2 (NKJV) ---- 1 “And it shall be, when you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, 2 that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the
Lord your God chooses to make His name abide.

(3) **Exodus 23:19** (NKJV) ---- 19 The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.

b. The **first is the best** (Num. 18:12; Micah 7:1; Hos. 9:10; Nah. 3:12)

(1) **Numbers 18:12** (NKJV) ---- 12 “All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the Lord, I have given them to you.

(2) **Micah 7:1** (NKJV) ---- 1 Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, Like those who glean vintage grapes; There is no cluster to eat Of the first-ripe fruit which my soul desires.

(3) **Hosea 9:10** (NKJV) ---- 10 “I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. But they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves to that shame; They became an abomination like the thing they loved.

(4) **Nahum 3:12** (NKJV) ---- 12 All your strongholds are fig trees with ripened figs: If they are shaken, They fall into the mouth of the eater.

c. **First things first- priorities** (Lev. 23:19; Exo. 22:29,30; Lev. 19:23-25)

(1) **Leviticus 23:19** (NKJV)----19 Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering.

(2) **Exodus 22:29-30** (NKJV) ---- 29 “You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me. 30 Likewise you shall do with your oxen and your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.

(3) **Leviticus 19:23-25** (NKJV) ---- 23 ‘When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. It shall not be eaten. 24 But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the Lord. 25 And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I am the Lord your God.

2. The Firstlings
a. The firstling **belonged to God** (Exo. 13:12; 34:19; Lev. 27:26)

b. Must be **best quality** without blemish (Lev. 22:21-25; Mal. 1:7,8)

c. The **firstling is holy** (Num. 18:15-17; Deut. 12:5-7)

d. **Devoted** to God (Lev. 27:26-28)

3. The Firstborn
a. The firstborn belonged to God (Exo. 13:1,2; Num. 3:13)

b. The firstborn is chosen because he is precious & privileged (Exo. 13:2; Zech. 12:10; Deut. 21:16,17)

c. “Thou shalt not delay” (Exo. 22:29; Lev. 12:2-6) - “shalt thou surely redeem” (Num. 18:15)

D. Now it is clear that **God does not accept second best or leftovers**, which bring us to the text of our study:

1. **Malachi 1:6-14** (NKJV) ---- 6 "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.'

2. 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?" Says the LORD of hosts. 9 "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says
the LORD of hosts.

3. 10 "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. 11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts.

4. 12 "But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.' 13 You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD.

5. 14 "But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished-- For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations.

E. A very important question is raised in this same book ---- Malachi 3:8-10 (NKJV) - 8 Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

1. When we consider our sacrifices remember that it must cost us something!

2. 2 Samuel 24:24-25 (NKJV) ---- 24 Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

3. Mark 12:41–44 (NKJV) ---- 41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

F. Let Us now note a few aspects of our service and sacrifices to God in our everyday life.

II. We FAIL to Give God Our Best When:

A. When we give Him what is left

1. When we give Him what we don’t want –
2. When we give Him that which cost us nothing -
3. When we refuse to sacrifice.

B. Let Us Note just a few examples in the Scriptures where we can learn what this means.

1. The Poor Widow – (Mark 12:41-44) - (NKJV) ---- 41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

2. Mary Anointing Jesus – (John 12:1-9) - (NKJV) ---- 1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.
2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. 4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, 5 “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. 7 But Jesus said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.” 9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

3. The Macedonians – (2 Cor 8:1-5) - (NKJV) ---- 1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

4. Paul’s life – (2 Tim 4:6-8) - (NKJV) ---- 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

5. Jesus Gave His Best – (Left heaven –Obedied the Father – Gave His life- Phil. 2:5-10; Mat 26:39; Heb 5:8,9)
a. Philippians 2:5-10 (NKJV) ---- 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
b. Matthew 26:39 (NKJV) ---- 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”
c. Hebrews 5:8-9 (NKJV) ---- 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

C. Now from these example we can see what God means when He says we need to give of our best.

III. We give of our BEST when we:
A. Put the Lord & His kingdom first (Matt. 6:33; Mark 12:29-31)
1. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ---- 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
2. Mark 12:29-31 (NKJV) ---- 29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘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.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
There is no other commandment greater than these.”

B. Give ourselves willingly & wholly to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:12; Rom 6:13-22)
1. 2 Corinthians 8:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

2. Romans 6:13-22 (NKJV) ---- 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

C. Keep ourselves holy (1 Cor 6:19,20; 2 Cor. 7:14-8:1; 1 Pet 1:13-20)
1. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV) ---- 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

2. 2 Corinthians 7:14-8:1 (NKJV) ---- 14 For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I am not ashamed. But as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting to Titus was found true. 15 And his affections are greater for you as he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him. 16 Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything. 1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

3. 1 Peter 1:13-20 (NKJV) ---- 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ: 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

D. Demonstrate appreciation for the priceless (1 Pet 1:18-21; Rom 6:3-21; 12:1,2; 2 Cor 5:14,15; 8:5)
1. 1 Peter 1:18-21 (NKJV) ---- 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
2. Romans 6:3-21 (NKJV) ---- 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NKJV) ---- 14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

a. Mention the 24 who all applied for the worst job in the world - no rest, no days off no pay etc — the job was being a mom.

4. 2 Corinthians 8:5 (NKJV) ---- 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

E. When we love Him MOST - Mk 12:29-31 - (NKJV) ---- 29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘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.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

F. Godly as husbands or wives - Eph 5:22-33; 1 Cor. 7:2-11; 1 Pet 3:1-7

1. Ephesians 5:22-33 (NKJV) ---- 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we
are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

2. 1 Corinthians 7:1-12 (NKJV) ---- 1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. 7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. 8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; 9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them depart, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. 12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her.

3. 1 Peter 3:1-7 (NKJV) ---- 1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obedient Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

G. Godly as children & parents - Eph 6:1-4; Deut 6:7
1. Ephesians 6:1-4 (NKJV) ---- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

2. Deuteronomy 6:7 (NKJV) ---- 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

H. We serve others – Luke 10:25-37 - (NKJV) ---- 25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” 27 So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’” 28 And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” 29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to
Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?’ 37 And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

I. We are godly on the job – Col 3:22-24 - (NKJV) ---- 22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

J. We use our time for Him – (worship; teach; serve) - Eph 5:15,16; Acts 4:20
1. Ephesians 5:15-16 (NKJV) ---- 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
2. Acts 4:20 (NKJV) ---- 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

K. When all is said and done and we make a comparison - How does our worship & service to God compare to what we give to our work, secular meetings, & recreational activities - John 4:24; Luke 9:23-26 - how do we compare with the effort, energy and zeal that we give to:
1. Our facilities? - Haggai 1:4 - (NKJV) ---- 4 “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?” - Less? Same? Best?
2. Preparation? - Ezra 7:10 - (NKJV) ---- 10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. - Less? Same? Best?
3. Clothing? - James 2:1-4 - (NKJV) ---- 1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? - Less? Same? Best?
4. Punctuality? - Eph 5:16 - (NKJV) ---- 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. - Less? Same? Best?
5. Support? - Eph 4:16 - (NKJV) ---- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. - Less? Same? Best?
6. Participation? - 1 Cor 12:12-28 - (NKJV) ---- 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot
say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

- Less? Same? Best?

7. Advancement? - Acts 8:4 - (NKJV) ---- 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. - Less? Same? Best?

IV. In Conclusion:

A. Re-look at the lyrics of song # 388
   1. # 388 ----“Give of Your Best To The Master”
   2. Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth. Throw your soul’s fresh, glowing ardor Into the battle for truth. Jesus has set the example, Dauntless was He, young and brave. Give Him your loyal devotion; Give Him the best that you have.
      a. Refrain :  Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth. Clad in salvation’s full armor, Join in the battle for truth.
   3. Give of your best to the Master; Give Him first place in your heart. Give Him first place in your service; Consecrate every part. Give, and to you will be given; God His beloved Son gave. Gratefully seeking to serve Him, Give Him the best that you have. ---- Refrain
   4. Give of your best to the Master; Naught else is worthy His love. He gave Himself for your ransom, Gave up His glory above. Laid down His life without murmur, You from sin’s ruin to save. Give Him your heart’s adoration; Give Him the best that you have. ---- Refrain

B. Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) ---- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1. 1 Peter 4:1-2 (NKJV) ---- 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

C. Think on these things as we examine of “giving to the Master”