



Newsletter
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Oct.2003

Taking a hit for the Kingdom

In our church we have an unspoken policy that basically says if the church needs something and someone sees the need, they usually pick up whatever is needed and then hand the receipt over to the accountant and then get reimbursed. It usually works out pretty well and keeps me from having to get everything and have my eyes everywhere. More often than not though, I am the one who sees the needs and ends up picking up quite a few things that I think that the church could use. However, most times I don't want to charge the church and usually take the hit myself and absorb the cost. It's my desire that the church can get ahead economically so that eventually we can buy the building we are currently in. It will take major sacrifice to obtain such a place as the one we are currently have, but I know that God can do it. So when I don't hand in receipts it's my way of helping the church a little here and a little there. And then I notice that some people hand in so many receipts and ask for such an insignificant amount of money, say for a bar of soap, that one wonders how they still prosper. I began to ponder this and almost began to complain towards God that here I am taking my children's bread and making sure the house of God has no lack and yet those that need to be reimbursed for a bar of

soap prosper. I began to not want to do this anymore. Not that asking to be reimbursed is wrong, actually it's totally legitament. But I began to ask myself, where are those who would take the hit for the kingdom and allow it to continue to grow and not get set back? I know that you can't impose on people to take on the weight of the church and I don't ask that. However, I know that sacrifice is needed and sometimes don't see much of it. I couldn't actually find any scriptures that spoke of being blessed for making such sacrifices. If there are they had escaped my notice for the time being. Most scriptures tend to talk more about sowing and reaping for gaining prosperity. Then I felt the Lord lead me to a specific passage for those who would take a hit for the kingdom or be willing to sacrifice even though it is not required. Though you have a right to be reimbursed you don't use it. Here's what I found and am believing for. In the latter part of Genesis we see the story of Jacob. He was known as, and is often regarded as a usuper and that he used lies and manipulation to try to get God's blessing on his life. When he got Isaac's blessing pretending to be his brother, he got the blessing all right, but with it a death sentence that was just a matter of time till it was

fulfilled by his angry brother Esau. Jacob, running for his life because of his trickery, escaped the anger of his brother with only the clothes on his back. He brought nothing with him, no possessions, nothing. As he ran for his life he began to see the futility of his ways and began to have encounters with God on the way. On one such occasion he promised God the tithe of all he earned which did bring a certain amount of blessing on his life, as well as God becoming first in his life. However, I do not believe that the abundance, and the transferring of wealth, even great wealth came to him on the basis of the tithe only. For example, we always speak of the tithe as something owed to God, and I'll agree. In the parable of the talents we see Jesus settling up accounts with three of his servants that he had given talents to. However, the man with the one talent just gave back what was already given him by his Lord. So, he was a tither and that's it. No more. Right down to the penny, and he was not looked upon favorably by the Lord. The Lord's answer to such a one was, "You should have at least put my money, (notice

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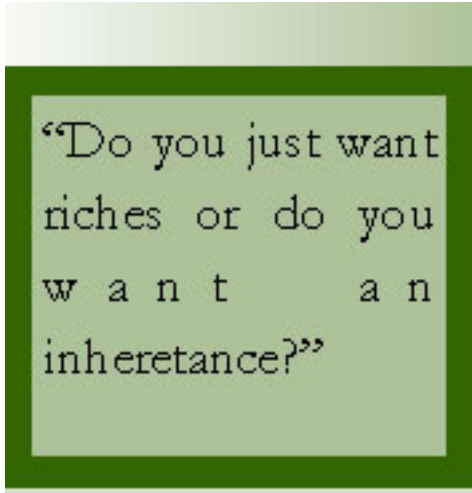
had nothing. He became faithful to his calling and with his vow, even though it might have been at times insignificant, he watched God strip away his poverty.

2. Jacob took the hit for Laban, his master. We see in Jacob's own words when confronted with Laban that he said, "I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks. I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night. This was my situation: The heat consumed

were changed to receive speckled sheep for his pay then that's what the sheep always had when ones were born, speckled ones. If the wage was striped sheep, then that's what was born, striped ones. All the sheep that were born speckled or striped were also the stronger, thus Jacob's wages were the strongest and most robust animals. Thus the riches of Laban began to be transferred to Jacob, not only until he had prospered, but until he had become a vast company. His own words were: " I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but

whose money it is), in the bank to have at least gotten interest?" As Jacob journeyed towards his grandfather Abraham's land, he was directed toward his grandfather's household where he fell in love with Rachael and married her and Leah and worked for his wealthy father in law Laban. Laban was just as much a manipulator as Jacob was, and he didn't like the taste of his own medicine. It was over a period of twenty years that God began, not only to prosper Jacob, but to multiply him and create in him a

nation. Jacob was unaware of what God was doing when son after son was born to him, but God was making him a company of people, not only in numbers but in riches and in every other area as well.



As I pondered why those who don't take the hit for the kingdom prosper and those that do sometimes don't, I felt the Lord ask me, "Do you want to prosper or do you want to become a company of people?"

"Do you want just riches or do you want an inheritance?" I have to admit, just having riches would be nice, but when I felt Him put the question to me that way, I felt I should stop and consider what He meant. So let's look and see.

1. Jacob started out with nothing. Although Jacob started this way he didn't stay that way, nor did he wallow in the fact that he

me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes. It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times." Gen 31:38-41 NIV

If Laban was missing a sheep or another animal, Jacob took the hit, meaning Jacob paid for it. He took the loss of his master's sheep personally as well as when it was between him or his master suffering the loss, he took the hit. It wasn't a matter of questioning who should pay or who shouldn't, Jacob took on the responsibility.

now I have become two groups." Gen. 32:10 NIV And again, "For God has treated me lavishly and I have everything". Gen. 33:11 NRSB When it was time for Jacob to return and confront his brother, he tried to pacify his anger with abundant gifts of sheep and other animals that he had accumulated. Thus he divided himself up into companies of people sending his family ahead of him with the large companies of animals. Thus when Esau came toward Israel he met company upon company of what had become Jacob's vast family and belongings. We read that Jacob insisted on

Did he have too? giving all this to
No. Couldn't he Esau and still
have turned in had plenty for
the receipt? His all his own little
master's well ones and more.
being was his Why? I believe
preoccupation that when Jacob
and so he began to suffer
became willing his own hurt for
to take the loss. his master, the
It's in this way wealth of that
that I began to master began to
see that God be transferred
multiplied to him. He
Jacob's fortune wasn't just
abundantly becoming
because of his prosperous, he
willingness to was being made
take the hit for into a vast
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goods even When Joseph
though it wasn't sent for Jacob
required of him he had to send
to do so. As a for many
result when
Jacob's wages

carts to carry all the goods that Jacob had become blessed with. Then the whole land of Goshen had to be given to him because again, the amount of live stock he had was great. I don't believe that this is only in material things but in every way. For example, Jacob became twelve tribes. This being a blessing of offspring. (I have this blessing heavy on my life as well, but not as much as the patriach). Then when he passed on and they brought his body to be buried next to his father's, a great company from Egypt came to morn his death, so much so that many who saw asked, whom in Egypt has died?, They said it was a "Great felt mourning." Gen.50:11 This being a spiritual legacy that he had

his body's sake, which is the church." ASV Do you hear him saying if someone needs to suffer for the church let it be me? He's essentially saying that if there is persecution lacking on Christ's part let it fall on me. And that is taking a hit for the kingdom. As a result his writings are still a main focus of millions of readers today who search the Scriptures. If anyone does anything these days for the gospel, they borrow from Paul. His lasting impression on mankind show the type of legacy and company of people one can become who take the hit for the kingdom.

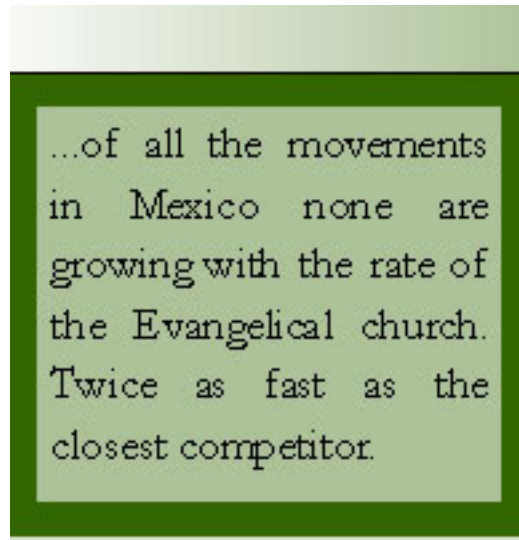
As you meditate on Jesus' life you'll see an even greater example of the countless company

becoming properous or a company of people I believe was in this light. Not that I will become the next Apostle Paul, but that He would begin to bless me with the wealth of family, legacy and even with riches. King David took the hit for the kingdom and God established him as an everlasting kingdom. That's quite a blessing for one who was willing to take the hit and act uprightly. When everyone was building nice houses in Israel David thought of making a palace for the ark, something God never asked for, nor had anyone even thought of doing such a thing in all the years before. When David thought of it, God was so moved He made David's descendents into a royal line. It was also David's idea to take an offering for the matieral

left behind. His son as well was made second in command of all the world at that time, so much so that the whole world had or had not, according to Joseph. Jacob became what Isaac and Abraham did not. Nor do we see the same attitude in them that was in Jacob. We do see that they were blessed but never a great company like Jacob who was willing to take the hit for his master. Coming over to the New Testament, we see the apostle Paul with the same attitude as Jacob. He purposed to not become a burden to the church but to be able to present the gospel free of charge and take upon himself the work to alleviate the church from the burden. And only Jesus, who is the master of taking the hit for us all, has left a greater legacy than

He is becoming. For example, here in Mexico I recently attended a government meeting with all the area pastor alliance presidents in the state of Guerrero. The government wants to know where we are and what we are doing. They have come to understand that they need the help of the Evangelical church. Why? Because of all the movements in Mexico, none are growing with the rate of the Evangelical church, twice as fast as it's closest competitor. They can't keep up with it so they have asked us to cooperate with them for the well being of the state of Guerrero. They have come to our disposition. Why? God is making Jesus a vast company of people here in Mexico. Jesus took the hit for the kingdom, and the results of those who take the

for the temple and he gave over and above the whole



congregation. Would to God that He could find many who would take the hit and be willing to be made into a vast company with a legacy that remained. Many times we're just caught up with the hear and now, but God is looking to an everlasting legacy for you. However, legacy's aren't left without the sacrifice one makes to send it on ahead of them. In my very own family, the Winslows came over on the Mayflower risking evrything and

[<< 1 2 3 4 >>](#)

Paul. Listen to hit are big and long
Pauls words in standing and stretch
Colosians chapter over times and ages
one, "Now I to become
rejoice in my companies of
sufferings for your people. Not that we
sake, and fill up on will take Jesus
my part that which place but the legacy
is lacking of the becomes traceable.
afflictions of Thus the Lord's
Christ in my flesh question to me as to
for

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going into uncharted territory as one who sacrificed all for the religious freedom we now enjoy. It was quite the sacrifice for them but they, with many others took the hit for what we now as America, home of the free and the brave. Many Winslows were governors of the cities in which they were living as well as Massachusetts. If we concentrate on what we will not have by taking the hit, we will never attain to anything. Jesus took the hit not only for the kingdom but the world. As a result God gave Him a name above every other name. At His name every knee shall bow and every tongue confess. Because He was willing

repayment for what you have done for the Lord you put yourself into a position to become great in the eyes of the Lord. None of your sacrifice will ever go unnoticed by Him. Even the Bible exhorts us to lay up treasure that moth and dust can't destroy and thieves can't steal it. Mt.6:19 When you begin to lay it up He begins to make you a great company with great legacy. You join a small but select company of people that God looks to bless. The kingdom advances by great sacrifice and strangely,

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to take on our sin and guilt no one will come or go without Jesus. The whole of time revolves around Jesus. Therefore when you set yourself up to not demand

that's where greatness and legacy starts. So do you want to be prosperous or become a company?

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