

SELFISH AND UNSELFISH ATTITUDES IN LIFE.

The Joy of Giving

Mosquitoes and Bees

Intent of the Fable

- ✓ *To become aware of the Selfish and the Unselfish stances people may take in life.*
- ✓ *Check towards which of them you may be leaning.*
- ✓ *Where to find meaning and joy in life?*
- ✓ *What's your goal in life?*

THE FABLE

Once upon a time, some mosquitoes and some bees had an exchange about their attitudes and goals in life. The mosquitoes said: "We do not toil or moil, as you bees do, neither we have a wish to do it. We have a leisurely life. At the night,. slowly and unnoticed we intrude into men's houses; then, we sting them and suck their blood. That's all we need to live.

The bees replied: "But, you do not know that by doing that you cause itching and pain to people and even you infect them with deadly diseases? The Mosquitoes rejoined: "We couldn't care less. This does not bother us. As long as we get what we want, it's alright with us"

In horror, the bees retorted: "Our way of life is just the opposite. Night and day we work hard and struggle to support ourselves and to offer sweetness and joy to others. We hate to be a burden or a nuisance to anyone; much less to be a cause of annoyance and suffering to others. Our aim in life is to support ourselves as well as to give comfort, nourishment and sweetness and joy to one and all.

Flying from flower to flower, enjoying the warmth of the sun, collecting scented nectar and making sweet honey for ourselves and others we find joy in life, truly our life is exhilarating and rewarding "

REFLECTION QUESTIONNAIRE. Personal Work.

Hints for the Moderator

If you use these jottings to conduce group sessions ask the partifpants to put down n writing their replies to this reflection questionnaire

1. What are the mentalities and life value systems of the mosquitoes and of the bees? Give a short description of both.

2. What is the attitude of the bees? Do you like it? Why?
3. What is the attitude of the Mosquitoes? Do you approve of it? Why?
4. Who do the Mosquitoes and bees stand for in real life? What sort of person do they signify?
5. Whose life is worthier and happier? Explain.
6. Can a mosquito have any sense of self-worth? Why?
7. What does truly give meaning and worth to life?
8. In your life, have you found mosquito-like- persons? Without giving their names, share with us your unpleasant experiences.
9. Have you found also, bee-like-persons? Kindly, give us their names, and share with us your beautiful and pleasant experiences.
10. According to your life experiences, in our homes, in our schools and colleges, at our places of work what is more common to find, mosquito-like- persons or bee-like-persons? Explain. Because of that what happens to us all?
11. What sort of person are you more like? “A bee or mosquito person”? Why?
12. Can you become more of a bee? How? What will you do from now on?
13. Explain the following sentences
 - In each man’s heart there is mosquito and a bee.
 - Starve your mosquito, feed your bee
 - Make giving your way of life..
 - What we give to others is gain, what we take it away from them is loss.

GROUP SHARING AND DISCUSSION

Note for the Moderator:

- ✓ Ask the participants to share their replies to the above questionnaire form. *They will be free to share only what they feel confident to share.*
- ✓ Encourage discussion and interaction..
- ✓ However, questions and discussions on “personal shared matters should be avoided.
- ✓ In the course of the sharing and discussion, instruct them and give them hints for right living.

CLOSING SHARED PRAYER

- ✓ Close the even with spontaneous shared prayer
- ✓ Bible quotes can be read and commented. (*Cfr. below*)
- ✓ Hymn singing to be encouraged.

APPENDIX

THOUGHTS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES: (For Prayer)

- Give, and it will be given to you
- It is better to give than to receive

- Freely you have received, now freely, you give
- God loves a cheerful giver.
- He who gives to the poor will lack nothing
- Give to others, and God will give you; you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into you hands, all that you can hold.
- The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you
- God is not outdone in generosity.

BIBLE TEXTS BEARING ON THE SUBJECT OF GIVING

Mt 2/9-11	Magi. Offering their best gifts to Jesus
Mt 5/28-42	About Revenge. Give to your enemies with love.
Mt 6/1-4	How to give. With love and in private.
Mt 7/12	Do to others, as you would like them, do to you.
Mt 10/5-10	Mission of the 12 disciples. Give freely.
Mt 10/40-42	Rewards for giving.
Mt 12/33-35	You will know a tree by the fruits it gives.
Mt 14/13-21	Feeding the Five thousand. They gave all he had.
Mt 18/21-35	Give, forgive your debts. Unforgiving servant.
Mt 26/26-29	Last Supper. Jesus gives us himself in the Eucharist.
Mk 10/26-29	The Rich Young Man cannot give...
Mk 12/41-44	The Widow's mite, She gives all she has.
Lk 3/10-14	John Baptist's teaching.
Lk 5/27-28	The call of Mathew. Gives up everything.
Lk 6/38	God will use to measure us, the measure with which, we measure others.
Lk 12/32-34	Riches in heaven. Give all you have on earth.
Lk 16/19-31	Parable of the Rich man and Lazarus.
Lk 19/1-10	Zacchaeus Gives half of all he has.
Acts 2/43-47	Life of the First Christians. Sharing all they had.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

For Unselfish Generosity.

Comment on it, recite it chorally or sing it.

Make me a channel of your peace
 Where there is hatred, let me bring your love
 Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
 And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul. (*Refrain*)