



God of Surprises

If there is one sure thing in the Scriptures, it is: be careful what you ask for! Moreover, don't be surprised when the answer pulls the rug from under your feet! God is full of the unexpected and unnoticed, which leads to the conclusion: God's way is unacceptable.

This is the key to faith; a trust in God when we fail to understand or are displeased, or frightened by what God says. Such trust leads to wisdom, the understanding and appreciation of meaning and purpose, the path of fulfillment, which is every person's desire.

This is true regardless of who or what we trust in. The fulfillment

achieved will vary because it relies on the motivations, values, and whatever a person decides is important. All we can do here is think about this. For now, let's focus on our God of surprises.

Jesus was ever trying to explain this by stories and teachings which seldom rung true to the human way of facing life. So, He said, "the person who saves his/her life will lose it and the person who loses his/her life will save it. If you wish to follow Me, you must take up your cross to do so." Again, He jolts His friends, and us, with, "whoever wishes to be great must be your servant and whoever wishes to be first will be the slave of all."

These statements (answers) of Jesus remind us of God's unconditional love and invitation to love back. We desire to do so, but our choices often aren't the way God

wants. Jesus gives a clear answer by His life and teaching summed up by His Passion and Death. To find fulfillment, one must lose the perspective of wealth, ambition, rank and the false security they provide. These are not evil in themselves; they are susceptible to evil when they become the focus and goal, wherein others are neglected, deprived, ignored.

For Jesus, and for us, true wisdom, wealth, fulfillment is in being for others. It is the generosity of spirit to serve others by our capacities to love, be

compassionate and forgiving, seeking justice and fair treatment for all, not just one's own.

Do you have a question for God?

