

Fresh Start

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What Did You Bring Me?

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When I was a child, there was a recurrent scene in television shows and old movies that confused me. A father would come home from a business trip and his child or children would rush him at the door asking; what did you bring me/us? I was raised on a small dairy farm and my dad never left; not one business trip or even a vacation. So, this concept was baffling to me. Why are they expecting gifts just because their dad came home? It became far less baffling when I started going on business trips as a dad and learned it was indeed customary to return home bearing gifts.

I was reminded of the “what did you bring me” ritual recently while reading John 4:45, Jesus’ arrival in Galilee – *“When He arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed Him. They had seen all that He had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.”*

“...the Galileans welcomed Him.” Surprisingly, this phrase is most commonly interpreted as a rejection of Jesus. They weren’t welcoming the Savior of the World. They had seen Him work miracles and they were welcoming Jesus, the miracle worker. How could He use his powers to meet their physical wants and needs? Their welcoming of Him was their way of asking – *“What did you bring us?”* It made me wonder, how often do I do that?

How often do I treat Jesus like the TV child treated his father at the door – more interested in seeing what his dad brought him than seeing his dad? Do I rejoice at having Jesus in my heart as often as I ask for things in His name? How often do I speak with Jesus bringing maximum love and zero expectations?

Do you have a relationship with God? Do you treat Him as a friend, or as an omnipotent personal assistant? Or does the concept of having a friendship with God seem completely foreign to you? It shouldn’t: *“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend.”* James 2:23.

What if we spent less time asking Jesus for presents like the children at the door and more time telling Him how thankful we are just for His presence? *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* Matthew 6:33. For us, that means running to the door to greet Jesus, just because we love Him. That’s really all we need to do. He already knows our needs and promises to provide them. We just need to love and trust and leave the rest up to Him!