



A Twenty-One Day Digital Devotional

Day Four

Sowing Our Time Into Others

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.
- John 12:24

My seven-year-old son Sean has taught me so much about the character of God. When Sean was three years old we found out that he was on the autism spectrum. Sean is bright, full of energy, desires to help, and could put together 100 piece puzzles by the time he was 3. He also struggles with self-control and when he loses control he has thrown a remote at our TV, hit me, bit me, called me names and thrown a chair at his bedroom door.

At first, I would tighten control, threaten consequences, and raise my voice as he raised his. This only escalated him and we would both usually end up exhausted and in tears. Then, over time, through reading more on autism, the encouragement of friends, and the grace of God I began to see Sean differently. As he was losing control I would see a child created in God's image that was lost, unable to control his body and overwhelmed by his surroundings. I found the best way to reach Sean was to lay down my own pride, my own priorities, my own life and love him.

Jesus constantly turned peoples thinking upside down. He would say things like the last shall be first and the first shall be last or whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Our culture and our sin nature constantly tell us that we have to look out for ourselves, because no one else will. We think we have to take care of ourselves first, before taking care of others. But Jesus shows us a different way.

Jesus' life was one of sacrifice. Philippians 2:5-8 tells us that Jesus "humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Instead of hoarding His power in heaven, He came down and laid down His life to reunite us to God.

The call of the Christian life is to lay down our life for others. What if we woke up each day and asked how we could serve others, love others, lay down our lives for others? Jesus said that when we lay down our lives, putting to death our own priorities, God will then take that life and multiply it.

Questions To Consider

How did Jesus model self-sacrificial love for you?

How can you serve someone today by sacrificing your time for them?

Prayer Focus

Jesus, thank you for leaving the glory of heaven to come down to earth and lay down Your life for me. Empower me by Your Spirit to lay down my life for others, that they might see You in me. Multiply Your Kingdom of self-sacrificial love through me today. Amen.

Written by Austin Grigg