

“THE GIVING TREE”

*Generosity and Self-giving Christ like
Christian maturity is measured by the capacity one has
to give himself to others for the sake of Christ.*

The Giving Tree

*Adapted from “The Giving Tree”
of Shall Silverstein. By P. Ribes, s.j.*

Intent of this Story

- ✓ To encourage people to “share” what they have and what they are with others.
- ✓ To grow in love for Jesus, who gave himself up for us.

Narrator: Once upon a time, there was a tree, and the tree loved a little boy. Every day the boy would come and gathering the leaves of the tree made them into crowns and play “King of the forest”.

The boy liked the tree very much and the tree was happy!

As the days rolled by the boy grew older and tree was left alone. After along time, the boy came to the tree and the tree said:

Tree: Come boy, come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy!

Narrator: The boy replied:

Boy; I am too big to climb and play. I want to buy things and have fun. I want some money. Can you give me some money?

Narrator: The tree said:

Tree: I am sorry, friend, I have no money! I have only leaves and apples. Take my apples, Boy, and sell them in the city. Then you will get money and you will be happy.

Narrator: And so the boy climbed up the tree and gathered his apples, and carried them away and the tree was happy. But the Boy stayed away for a long time. And the tree was sad: Then one day, the boy came back, and the tree shook with joy and said:

Tree: Come boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy.

Narrator: The boy said:

Boy I am too busy to climb trees. I want a house to keep warm.

Narrator: The tree replied:

Tree: I have no house. The forest is my house, but you can cut off my branches and build a house for yourself. Then you will be happy.

Narrator: And so the boy cut off his branches and carried them away to build his house. And the tree was happy. But, the boy stayed away for a long time. And when he came back, the tree was so happy that he could hardly speak. The tree exclaimed:

Tree: Come boy! Come and play!

Narrator: The boy replied:

Boy: I am too old and sad to play. I want a boat that will take me far away from here. Can you give me a boat?

Narrator: The tree replied.

Tree: Cut down my trunk and make a boat. Then you can sail away and be happy.

Narrator: And so the boy cut down his trunk. And made a boat and sailed away and the tree was happy, but not really! After a long time the boy came back again; the tree wailed:

Tree: I am sorry boy. I have nothing left to give you. My apples are gone. My trunk is gone! I am sorry. I wish I could give you something, but, I have nothing left. I am just an old stump

Narrator: The boy replied:

Boy: I don't need very much now. Just a quiet place to sit and rest, I am very tired.

Narrator: The old tree straightened himself and said:

Tree: Well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come boy, sit down, sit down and rest.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Liking is human, Loving divine.
- God can only love people, not like or dislike them.
- Loving is other-centered, liking is self-centered
- The problem with us is that we like people and love things” .
- Christ as the “man for others”,
- The one who came “not to be served, but to serve”,..
- The one who came “to offer his life for the salvation of all”,...
- The good Shepherd who “put down his life for his sheep”...
- \ Give until it hurts”.
- “Share not what you have, but what you are”.
- “When your hands give, close your eyes”.
- “First open your heart, then your hands....
- To give is not to share, because the gift without the giver is bare”
- The fountain keeps flowing even if no one comes to drink
- The oil in the lamp keeps burning for all around to see
- The salt dissolves itself in the food to give taste for all to eat...
- The sun keeps shining on all – friends and foes
- The rose gives her fragrance for all passers-by.

GENEROSITY PRAYERS

St Francis of Assisi:

“Make me a channel of your peace,
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
 In giving to all men that we receive
 And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.
 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”.

St. Ignatius Loyola.

Dearest Lord, teach us to be generous,
 Teach us to serve you as you deserve;
 to give and not to count the cost,
 to fight and not to heed the wounds,
 to toil and not to seek for rest,
 to labor and not to ask for any reward
 save that of knowing we do Your will.