

DENAIR FRIENDS CHURCH

Devotions with Matt

MAY 26, 2020

GIVEN MUCH

This devotion may seem a day late, but I was thinking a lot about Memorial Day yesterday. There are so many beautiful meanings to Memorial Day and some wonderful tributes to all of our fallen soldiers that one cannot help but think upon such things. Memorial Day isn't just a day that marks the beginning of summer or an opportunity to go to the lake. Those things are nice, and there is nothing wrong with going to the lake, but it should be a reminder to us all here in America of all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our many freedoms.

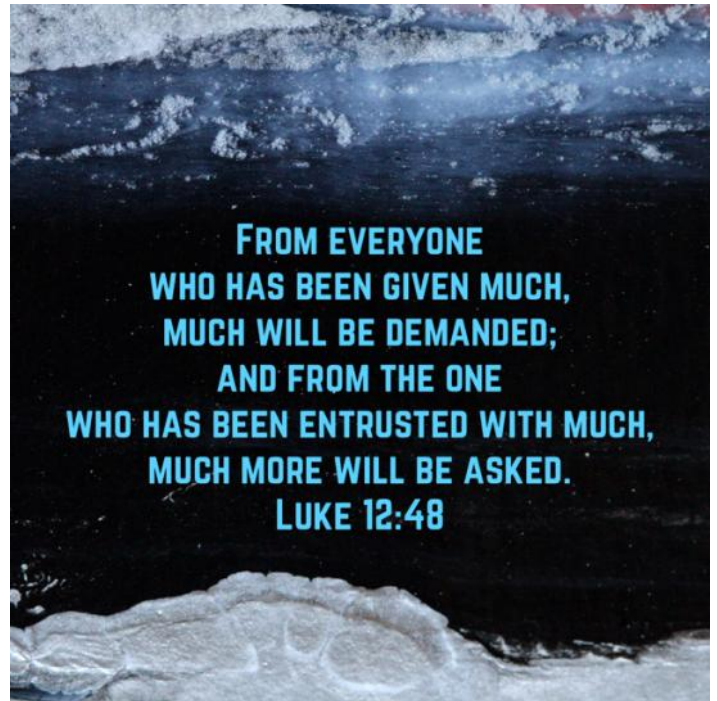
Jesus says in Luke 12 that for all who have been given much, much will be required. America is not a perfect place- no county is. But, we are so blessed to live in such a great county. We have some many liberties here that we often take for granted. We have freedom to worship our Creator without hindrance. We have the freedom of the press and the freedom to speak out when we are moved to do so. We have the freedom to move about our country without limitations. These are but a small fraction of the liberties we have as Americans and because of them we are the envy of the world.

For those who have been given much, much will be required. For all of those who paid the ultimate price for our country and our liberties, we owe a great debt of gratitude. What is required of us who have been given much is for us to live like free men and women. But freedom does not mean to gratify our selfish desires. Freedom that was secured by the blood of all those who shed it on the battlefields means that we should look out for one another and promote these freedoms for our common good and future generations. Even if it means sacrificing life and limb. To take our freedoms for granted, to let them be whittled away or to surrender them is to forget the great sacrifices of all those who fought and died for them. Ronald Reagan once said, "If we lose freedom here, there is no place to escape to. This is the last stand on earth." In many ways I believe that to be true.

The Apostle Paul says in the book of Galatians, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." When we think about our freedom and liberties here in America, as great as they are, there are other freedoms that no man can ever take away from us. Even if we lived in an oppressive and restrictive country, there are freedoms of the heart that are granted by our Creator that can never be quenched. Jesus Christ sacrificed all, shed His blood and died so that we may be free from the penalty and bondage of sin. No president, county, army or soldier can win that battle or give us that freedom.

Jesus gave us life, and life to the full. He has reconciled us back to God and replaced our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. He has given us a peace that passes all understanding. It is a peace that lives in us no matter the external circumstances. He has given us a hope as an anchor for our souls. He has forgiven us and give us grace upon grace. He has loved us into eternity.

We have been given much so much is required. And what does God say is required of us? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. We have been given so much. Let us not take what we have been given for granted. Let us not use our freedom purchased for us on the cross to indulge our sinful nature.



Let us forgive. Let us be graceful and merciful. Let us love. Let us use our freedom in Christ to serve Him as He leads.

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. Luke 12:48

In Christ,
Matt