

NO QUID PRO QUO

Dear Friends:

Former missionary and current pastor and prolific author Max Lucado tells the story about how, as a new missionary, he almost left the mission field. Pastor Max shares that he and his wife decided to go onto the mission field in 1982. Within a few months, his father was diagnosed with ALS. Max told his father that he and his wife, Denalyn, decided not to go because of his father's diagnosis. His father would have none of it and said, "You must go". So, Max and Denalyn did go. However, Max made a deal with God: "God, I will go on the mission field, and you heal my dad". Unfortunately, Max's dad died a few short years later. Max came to the realization that God doesn't operate quid pro quo. Quid pro quo is the Latin term meaning: "A favor or an advantage expected in return for something".

3,000 years before Max's quid pro quo, Jacob tries to do a quid pro quo with God. Read about it in Genesis 28. On his way to Haran to find a wife God appears to Jacob. God gives Jacob a promise that Jacob will continue the blessing line of Abraham. In Genesis 28:10-21 Jacob says: "IF God will be with me and watch over me THEN the Lord will be my God". Quid pro quo, IF (and only if) God will watch over me, THEN (and only then) the Lord will be my God and I will follow him".

We must not be too quick to shame Jacob for two reasons. First, there is a lot of quid pro quo coming from American pulpits these days. "You do this for God, then, he will pour out special anointing/favor on you.". I will never forget the day I took Pastor Lim of the Philippines to see a pastor acquaintance of mine in Columbus. It was around Easter time. I knew the pastor at times leaned toward the "Prosperity gospel". So, he says to Pastor Lim: "Do you preach anointing and blessings/prosperity?". Pastor Lim looked at him with confusion and said: "I don't know about that, but I know I preach the cross and the Gospel". It was a classic moment I'll never forget! No quid pro quo. Second reason not to be quick to shame Jacob: there have been moments in our life when we were quid pro quo with God and our prayers. It's human nature. Let's serve God, worship God, love God just because of who He is. No quid pro quo.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayers: Lyle Starr (still traveling a couple more days), That we see where God is working and follow, Revival in our church