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What About Me? by Carl E Beyer and Friends

What about me? I would like to take this opportunity to whine, so pardon me while I do so. First of all, I am directing this to The Boss. God, are you listening to me? WHAT ABOUT ME? I have been your faithful servant for these past twenty-some years since my baptism. While the kids were young we were not able to volunteer much with the parish, but for the past decade we have BEEN THERE, supporting the Church. So....*what about me?* Do I not deserve....all that which I think I deserve? I mean, at the ripe old age of fifty, should I not be financial stable? Should I not be able to spend my time counting my earthly treasures? What about me?

Oops, did I say, *earthly treasures?* Yeah, that is the problem....I have not been paying enough attention to the earthly treasures, because I heard somewhere that "you cannot take it with you." But still, Lord, could you not handle that part for me? Yeah, I know, time to step back and count my blessings. Time to know our Lord is taking care of me; he just has different priorities for me than simply my earthly treasures. So, I will now stop my whining and address the "What about me" thinking, and the problems it creates.

The "What About Me?" philosophy is certainly the opposite of the "How Can I Serve You?" philosophy. It is the way of thinking which involves constantly asking how other people should be helping ME. Hey, boss-man, why are you not serving me? How come Joe there gets the promotion, and not me? I am as smart as he, (...never mind that I do the bare minimum to get by and then complain about that.)! What about me, am I not as deserving as others? WHAT ABOUT ME????

I have some extra free time lately and have been watching some of the reality shows. These people's problems definitely start and end with the "What About Me" philosophy. Never do you hear these people ask how they can help others. No, it is always, "Why is someone not doing more for ME?" Or, "All of my problems are because someone *did something to me*; therefore, I do not need to help anyone else. I am the center of the universe, so 'What About Me?'" These shows offer an audio-visual instructional manual on how NOT to lead our lives. These shows should have disclaimers that state right from the beginning: "If you want to be UNHAPPY, use the people in this show as your role models." But certainly, we ought not get a big head comparing ourselves to them. The bar they set is so low that a snake could crawl over it. Of course, that is the appeal of the shows - they are designed to make us feel good about ourselves.

Now, I am the first to admit that sometimes we all need to wallow in self-pity and do the "What About Me" thing, because it is simply human nature. It gives us time to reflect on what and how things are going. It lets us vent our displeasures and lets us off the hook, temporarily, for our own failings. Sometimes we do just need to give ourselves a break and say, "What About Me?" But, woe to those who live their lives saying "What About Me," because they are never accountable for themselves. Their life road can only lead to unhappiness because people will never be able to do enough for them.

I hope I have made my point. Do your “What About Me,” but please, only briefly. Go forth and ask not what others can do for you but what you can do for others, or, as our Lord so clearly stated, “LOVE Your Neighbor”. God Bless You All.