

A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving
An introduction of *Stewardship* to the congregation

December 2020

A question we hear often these days is “What do you want for Christmas?”

Isn't that question out of order? Unless we were born on December 25th, it is not our birthday we should focus on. It is the birth of Jesus Christ, of course. It is Christ who should receive our gifts, our love and obedience.

According to Matthew 25, Christ says, “Feed the hungry. Give them water. Welcome strangers. Find clothes for those in need. Care for the sick. Then he said that if we helped those in need, we were really honoring him. “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you have done it to me.” (Matthew 25:34-46) In showing Jesus love by following his directive, we can truly celebrate Christmas.

I heard of a Christian woman who went on a tour of Israel. When she walked with friends along the crowded streets, every once in awhile she would see a person dressed in rags obviously needing help. She would stop, take a bit of money and hand it to the beggar. She was celebrating Christmas!

There is a true story of a minister who was helping a group feed a large gathering of indigents in Phoenix. It was Christmas Eve, therefore, the pastor greeted warmly each man with a hearty “Merry Christmas!” One stopped and having seen the pastor serving poor people before, said to him, “I know you. I recognize your face.” The pastor thought he would tease the fellow and answered “Yes! You've seen me on television, right?” The minister had never been on television. But the indigent was quick-witted. “Yes!,” he answered. “On America's Most Wanted.” The pastor roared with laughter.

Prayer: Whatever we do, Lord, don't let us miss the real Christmas, which comes through glorifying Christ with our stewardship. **Amen**

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