

A Stewardship Minute

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

DECEMBER 2011

In the December issue of *Stewardship* there is a moving story about a child who wanted to give a Christmas gift to Christ. The young boy had waited until the Christmas Eve service was over and then handed the gift to an usher explaining that it was a gift for Jesus. When the usher saw the pastor passing by, he handed the bulging envelope to him explaining that it was a gift for the Lord offered by a little boy.

Opening the envelope, the clergyman found a small toy car. Instantly, he surmised that the child had given a gift that was very important to him; a present from his mind, his heart, and his hand. This is what true giving is all about; offering to God what matters to us most: our hearts, our minds, our talents, our time, and our talents.

Christmas is a joyous time. But it should also be a challenging time when we consider how we should respond to God's precious gift of Christ to us. The hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter," written in the 19th century by a woman named Christina Rossetti, sums up what we should give Christ at Christmas in the fourth stanza:

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet
What I can I give him: give my heart.*

Prayer: God, you are the greatest giver we can imagine. You gave us your dear Son, our Lord and Savior. Help us, loving God, to willingly give you our hearts in totality. **Amen**

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