

Stewardship


THE PASTOR EXPLAINED THE MEANING OF OFFERING AND SACRIFICE, AND THEN DIRECTED THE USHERS TO GET READY FOR THE OFFERING, except it was not going to be an ordinary offering. People were invited to bodily come forward up to the stairs leading to the platform, and place something of value, but not money, on the stairs, for the offering that day.

At first, people came forth tentatively and with some hesitation. One brought up a blanket, another a Bible, and yet another a coat. One fellow, an avid golfer, went out to the parking lot to his car to get the new set of golf clubs that he had just bought. When he brought the set of clubs up to the stairs, a spirit of generosity spread through the congregation like wildfire. People began to get up and bring anything they had with them to deposit on the stairs.

One fellow, deeply moved by the gift of golf clubs, didn't have anything with him. As he thought about what he might give as an offering, he had what seemed to him a hilarious thought. He went out to his car and brought in a spare tire he had in the trunk. As he rolled it up the aisle to lean against the stairs, another man came up and examined the tire, then went over and whispered in the pastor's ear. The pastor whispered back, and then the man rolled the tire back down the aisle to his seat.

When the offering was finished and the stairs were full of the various items that had been brought forth, the pastor picked up the microphone and addressed the congregation. The pastor relayed what the man had whispered in his ear: the man had had a flat tire earlier in the day. He could not afford

to buy a new tire, so he prayed to God to bring him one. He had gotten a ride with a friend to church that night. When he saw the tire being rolled up to the stairs, he went over and looked at the model number on it. He couldn't believe it. It was the exact tire he needed.

The pastor suggested he take it home with him and the man therefore rolled the tire down the aisle to his seat. The pastor concluded: "Giving can be infectious, and you never know which of your gifts people will need." 

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goals...
However, the noblest use of time that will give meaning to our lives is practicing reverence for life by personal involvement with those who need our help desperately. True greatness lies in qualities of the heart, in charity and in love. Have you noticed that our happiest times are those in which we forget ourselves, usually in being kind to someone else?

