

Stewardship Reflections

St. Francis of Assisi, whose name Pope Francis has taken was known for his vow of poverty. He once said, “We should preach the Gospel all day long, if necessary, use words.” How do we do that today? How can we live in such a way that people see the spirit of Jesus in us? One way we can do that is by our generosity and our giving of the work of Jesus in the world. Let’s preach the Gospel by our generous and sacrificial giving.



Randy Alcorn quotes a friend who told him, “We’re most like God when we’re giving.” Then he follows, “Gaze upon Christ long enough and you’ll become a giver. Give long enough and you’ll become more like Christ.” That should be what it is all about, that we want to be more like Christ.



Well-known author and speaker, Tony Campolo tells of visiting Haiti with his seventeen year-old son. As they walked down a street in Port-au-Prince they were surrounded by impoverished, raggedy children, begging for pennies. Tony said to his son, “Don’t give them anything. If you do, they won’t let up till they’ve taken every dime we have.” Tony’s son responded, “So?” Tony says, “My son’s response was letting it be known that being a Christian is to render all of life’s resources to meet the needs of others in the name of Christ.” We, who have so much, are asked by God to give generously to meet the needs of others.



Randy Alcorn, in his little book, *The Treasure Principle*, says, in regard to the scripture in 2 Corinthians 9. “God loves a cheerful giver,” “The more we give, the more we delight in our giving – and the more God delights in us. Our giving pleases us, but more importantly, it pleases God.” Then he says, “If we don’t give, we’re robbed of the source of joy God instructs us to seek.”



In Luke’s Gospel, we are told that Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” His disciples warned him and discouraged him from this course of action. They feared to follow him, but he was determined to go, and they did follow him. Sometimes following Jesus is tough and risky. Sometimes it is costly. Yet, those disciples followed... how about us? Are we willing to follow, to sacrifice, and to give it our all? We have the opportunity to follow with our generosity and our gifts.



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