

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

BEGGARS SITTING on BAGS of GOLD

THERE IS AN OLD Chinese legend to the effect that a beggar was up in the mountains and saw some children playing with bright, sparkling stones. The beggar gathered up a sack full of the stones to take to his own children. On the way home he became weary and lay down to rest by the side of the road, pillowing his head on his sack of stones. A merchantman came along, saw the sleeping man lying there, picked up some of the bright shiny stones, and after examining them said to the beggar: "Do you know what these stones are, my friend?"

"Just some stones that children were playing with up in the mountains. I'm taking these home for my own children."

"My friend, these are not mere stones. They are gold nuggets. You are a beggar sitting on bags of gold and don't even know it."



REV. D. M. CLARK

"Beggars sitting on bags of gold!" That pretty well describes a large percentage of our churches. A recent magazine article reports that "more than 90% of our Protestant churches can double the church giving of their members." This statement was made in an article entitled, "Acres of Dollars." What a picture! The Church of Jesus Christ going begging in a sea of dollars! Closely related to this situation is the half-hearted Christianity displayed by the members of these churches. Our church-giving is only a token gift; and a token gift is indicative of only a token interest. We need to re-examine our whole concept of the stewardship of money for "a man's real interests are where his investments are." Someone has wisely said, "If you want to get a man interested in something get him to put his money into it."

I AM FREQUENTLY DISTRESSED as I meet Christians who make the terrible mistake of thinking of the offering as a trap; as something they are compelled to do, but do not actually want to do. The person who thus views his giving has not given himself unreservedly to the Lord. The Christian steward gives eagerly the Lord's full portion of his income, withholding not one mite. The steward gives out of a heart with Christ at its center. The Christian steward gives cheerfully, never grudgingly. The Christian gives in the knowledge that he holds wealth as a trust from God, and will sooner or later be called upon to render an account. The Christian gives sacrificially. If he gives only out of his abundance, what more does he than the non-Christian?

The Biblical standard of giving to the support of the Christian enterprise is the tithe. The habit of setting apart one-tenth of one's income is a tried and proven method of effective stewardship. Every Christian failing to meet the standard of the tithe is thereby reducing his soul-growth possibilities in direct proportion

Ministers, Please Note!

WE ARE REVISING our Church Directory in order to add churches not now included and to up-date information on churches listed previously. We would appreciate all ministers in this area with predominantly colored congregations to assist us in this endeavor. If your church has not been listed, please let us have the DENOMINATION of the church, the NAME of the church, the NAME of the pastor, a PHONE NUMBER where the pastor may be reached, and the ADDRESS of the church. If your church is incorrectly or incompletely listed in any of these respects, please send the necessary changes or additions to: Las Vegas VOICE, 958 West Owens Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. Thank you.

Conducts Revival



REV. P. A. GIPSON
(See Story Right)

thereto. The practice of tithing indicates an allegiance to God's law, not merely because it is a law, for neither God nor man can legislate righteousness. The Christian steward habitually tithes because he loves God and seeks to identify himself with His purposes. He recognizes his earning power to be God-given. To rob God of His portion would be to rob the hand that feeds him.

More than being an effective means of financing the Church, the tithe is a means of spiritual growth. Not only is the Church a beggar sitting on the bag of the potential tithes of her members, but the individual members are beggars seeking a spiritual glow and satisfaction all the while refusing to untie the purse string that would begin to let his tithe flow into the Lord's storehouse.

NOT ONLY DO WE ROB God by failing to practice good stewardship but we rob ourselves. The real test of our Christianity is the test of tithe. I question the sincerity of the faith of the Christian who gives only through a financial campaign; whose gift must be extracted much as one would extract a tooth, and it is just as painful. When one practices stewardship eagerly and willingly because he can do not other, he experiences spiritual enrichment.

Don Bancroft has written a little stewardship flyer with the arresting title, "Aunt Nan's Coffee Grinder." This flyer tells the story of "Aunt Nan" and her life of stewardship. "Aunt Nan" was the widow of a preacher at an early age with five children to raise. She had a very strict sense of stewardship. She faithfully tithed every cent of income from the family farm. She placed God's 10% in an old coffee grinder. Needless to say the little country Church which this family attended each week profited greatly from their sense of stewardship.

But an infinitely greater reward, far greater than any financial return, coming from this mother's sense of loyalty to God is the fact that all five of the children became steadfast Christians and outstanding Church leaders. One member of that family was none other than the beloved Christian warrior, Bishop McConnell. Another of the same family is a teacher of preachers in Boston University's School of Theology. A third son dedicated his life to serving the unfortunate. The only daughter married a Methodist minister and is now the mother of a Methodist preacher.

The story doesn't end there. Not only did three of "Aunt Nan's" sons enter the seminary, but 14 other boys from that little country Church followed her sons into full time Christian work. These are the spiritual gains that result from a life of loyal stewardship. It is just such living that will transform individuals and whole Churches from the status of "Beggars Sitting on Bags of Gold" to individuals and Churches actively participating in the rewards of faith dynamic enough to claim a cheerful tithe.

Indiana Preacher At Bethel Baptist; Kin of Rev. Wilson

A WEEK-LONG REVIVAL will be conducted by the Rev. P. A. Gipson, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Lafayette, Ind., at Bethel Baptist Church, 400 Adams Ave., from Sunday, Sept. 19, through Saturday, Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m. daily.

The Rev. Gipson is a half-brother to Bethel pastor Rev. I. W. Wilson and they bear such a striking resemblance to each other that they are often mistaken for twins. The startling similarity in appearance is heightened by the fact that both have short-cropped mustaches, wear horn-rimmed glasses below high, receding hairlines and even disclose an identically-placed gold tooth when they smile!

A graduate of Carol High School, Monroe, La., the visiting preacher attended Grambling College, Grambling, La.; Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, and holds two degrees from United Theological Seminary, Monroe, La., including Bachelor of Theology. He began his ministry in 1946.

In inviting the public to hear his brother's message, the Rev. Wilson said, "The Rev. Gipson is truly endowed with the spiritual power to convince men and women that there is a Christ." He further noted that when his brother's church recently observed its 93rd anniversary, the board of deacons paid tribute to the Rev. Gipson by describing him as combining "the greatness of Washington, the diplomacy of Roosevelt, the unselfishness of Moses, the lofty vision of St. Paul and the spirit of Jesus."

GROUND-BREAKING SET FOR MACEDONIA BAPTIST

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES for the new Macedonia Baptist Church, to be located at Clayton and Cartier Aves. in Cibola Park, North Las Vegas, will be conducted at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 3, according to the Rev. T. C. Cole, pastor.

Mayor William L. Taylor of North Las Vegas and Las Vegas SUN publisher H. M. (Hank) Greenspun will be the principal speakers. Ministers participating in the program will be the Revs. J. C. Coleman, J. L. Simmons, V.C.L. Coleman, J. L. Kemp, J. Y. Earle and F. N. Addison.

Acknowledgments of cooperation will be tendered Mayor Taylor, Mayor Oran Gragson of Las Vegas, City Manager Clay Lynch of North Las Vegas, local businessman Harry Wallerstein and Gerry Block. The latter donated one of the five lots on which the new church, presently located in Four Mile Park, will be erected.

Donations to the church building fund are being accepted by Holland Realty Investment Co., 900 W. Bonanza Rd.

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