



Give, Share and Serve

By Terry Kountz on April 20, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 16

Occasionally, in the midst of all the media's doom and gloom, we hear a heartwarming story about radical love and generosity that touches our hearts and moves us to tears. Stories, like the IMB's (International Mission Board) efforts in the Ukraine, are important because they offer hope in a suffering world.

These stories also surprise us because we are naturally inclined to reserve love and hospitality for those closest to us. We often cling tightly to people, money and belongings that we fear losing. It can be scary to give to and love people without knowing if they will love us back or repay us. They may even reject us.

But as Paul reminds us in his closing thoughts to the Corinthians, following Jesus means embracing an open-handed, sacrificial love. Jesus was the perfect example of radical love and generosity, boldly reaching out to sinners, lepers, outcasts — those who could give nothing in return. As we walk with Jesus, we begin to understand that everything we have is a gift from God and belongs to God (James 1:17). We learn to trust in His sovereignty and ability to provide for us. And, He gives us the courage to pursue acts of love, rather than waiting for a feeling to motivate us.

God loves us with radical love, and He calls us to love others radically, too (1 John 3:16-18). Christian love requires action. Jesus tells us the world will know us by our love for one another (John 13:35). Love is demonstrated in acts of kindness, forgiveness, generosity and hospitality, especially for those who can offer nothing in return.

Followers of Jesus who are living out the gospel model the beauty of God in a unique and wonderful way. If you are a new believer or struggling to live out your faith, look for those who are mature in Christ as examples and seek opportunities to give, share and serve. If you are a mature follower of Jesus, keep investing in others and pray God will help you know and live out the gospel.

Prayer: Lord, help me not to live my life alone but find other believers to have community with. Help me look for ways to give, share and serve others.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Corinthians 1

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