

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday October 21 2024 - I Thessalonians 5: 18

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." [Read 2 Samuel 22:All Versions](#)

Read I Thessalonians 5 for meditation and inspiration.



Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

Here is a profound definition of Generosity!

“Generosity is the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. It is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action entailing both the inclination and actual practice of giving liberally. It is not a haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life. What generosity gives can vary: money, possessions, time, attention, aid, encouragement, and more but it always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver. Like all virtues, generosity is in people’s genuine enlightened self-interest to learn and practice.” (Christian Smith, The Generosity Project, Notre Dame University).

"God is not the God of the dead but of the living. All are alive for Him" (Luke 20:38).

Among the most well-known ancient Greek philosophers is, of course, Socrates, who is remembered for his teaching methods that employ probing and thought-provoking questions. But there is another philosopher by the name of Mediocrates you may have seen recently on tee shirts, bumper stickers, and memes. As the joke implies, Mediocrates is the philosopher who tells us, "Just strive to be adequate," and "eh, that's good enough."

In Luke chapter 20, Jesus encounters a group of Sadducees -- members of an ultra-conservative religious party who are determined to trip him up with some thought-provoking, probing questions of their own. The Sadducees accepted as authoritative

only those things written down in the Law of Moses (the first five books of the Old Testament). Because of this religious outlook, they rejected many things Jesus was teaching. For example, they rejected the notion of bodily resurrection. Their view of the afterlife was pessimistic and joyless. The abode of the departed was called "Sheol." It was a world deeply embedded in the earth, where the soul lived a shadowy life. A grim existence that was "Good Enough" as was the grim present existence as "Good Enough".

Psychologists tell us that to get out of one's self-centered despair; to find relief from many forms of depression and move toward a life that is fulfilled and even happy; one needs to cultivate the art of generosity - to be a giving person!

As we approach this season of "Stewardship," please remember that as you give you are at the same time fulfilling an inner human need to matter and to make a difference. This sense of fulfillment grows as you give. Generosity is a Spiritual vitamin and it works. May it work for you in this wonderful season of hope and help.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger