

Ask, Seek, Knock

Wouldn't it be nice if someone gave you \$5.00 and then walked away after saying, "This is for you to use as you desire." Let's say that you don't know them and they disappear. The only thing you know is that someone gave you \$5.00. Its yours. How would you feel? Pretty good that you just received \$5.00 with no strings attached.

There is a man who has been going around Bay County Florida for many years. He hands out money to total strangers. He tells them it is a gift and to use it as they desire. The story makes the local news and no one knows who this stranger is. He asks for nothing in return.

Each Christmas another man enters Wal Mart and pays off the layaway for all those who have an account. This means that if you cannot pay for a gift for your children for Christmas right away, you can put it "on layaway" and they hold it in the back room until you have paid for the item over time. Some people barely make enough to pay rent and buy food. So, they make small payments each month or they save up the money and they make sure the item is saved for them until they can pay. For years this man has paid the layaway bill for all who have gifts for their children at the store. He doesn't have to do it and he makes the store keep his name quiet.

One time I came upon an elderly couple with a flat tire at a rest stop. Their car and mine were the only ones there. They did not know me and they locked themselves in the car out of fear. I get it. Rather than trying to convince them to unlock the car, I just went about finishing the changing of the tire and put the flat in the open trunk. I went to my car and got in and left. They didn't know me and I only did this because it was the right thing to do.

A few days later I was in a fancy restaurant in West Palm, Florida with some friends. The Matre D (head waiter) came to my table and said my meal had been paid for by the owner of the restaurant. I was surprised to find out the owner was the man whose tire I had changed on the interstate a few days earlier. I wasn't expecting anything in return for what I had done. It was just the right thing to do.

Too many times we fail to look for opportunities to do things for others without expecting to be thanked or recognized for our actions. Let's look at Matthew 7: 7 – 12 and the analogy Christ gives those to whom He is speaking.

Scripture: Matthew 7: 7 – 12 ⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹ "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

I like verse 12 the best. So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Other ways to say this are; Share \$5.00 with someone who needs it without expecting a thank you or recognition. Fix someone's tire. Carry someone's groceries. Rake an elderly neighbor's lawn without telling them you are going to do it.

One time a man felt compelled to help two young marines at a fast food restaurant. He overheard them talking. They were counting up change to see if they had enough money to buy a burger, fries and a Coke. After pooling their money, they decided they did not have enough money and would just get some water before they boarded the bus back to camp. That was going to be a 2-hour trip and they would miss dinner. The one young marine said, "We should have planned better before we decided to go to the hospital and visit the kids." The other one said, "It's okay, it was worth it." They weren't talking loudly, it's just that he could hear them. The man went up to the counter and ordered two meals and paid the bill. He told the server to wait until he was gone and then serve the marines. This is simply an example of a man desiring to help others without being recognized for doing so.

When you have good intentions in your heart you can do great things and God will reward you for doing so especially if you don't do it so you can try to earn favors or points from God. He knows your true heart and intentions.

Questions:

1. Was Christ saying you can earn your way into heaven by doing nice things?
2. Should you seek out the Lord?
3. Does the Father in heaven give good gifts?
4. For what reason should you change a tire?
5. Should you seek to be recognized for raking a lawn or buying lunch for someone?

Next Steps:

Plan a way to do a good deed so that when it's done the person receiving the good deed does not know you did it.