

Friday Reflections

*For I testify that they gave as much as they were able,
and even beyond their ability.*

2 Corinthians 8:3

During the pandemic lockdown, Jerry was forced to close his fitness center and had no income for months. One day he received a text from a friend asking to meet him at his facility at 6:00 p.m. Jerry wasn't sure why but made his way there.

Soon cars started streaming into the parking lot. The driver in the first car placed a basket on the sidewalk near the building. Then car after car (maybe 50 of them) came by. Those inside waved at Jerry or hollered out a hello, stopped at the basket, and dropped in a card or cash. Some sacrificed their money, but all gave their time to encourage him.

The true nature of love is sacrificial, according to the apostle Paul. He explained to the Corinthians that the Macedonians gave "even beyond their ability" so they could meet the needs of the apostles and others (2 Corinthians 8:3). They even "pleaded" with Paul for the opportunity to give to them and to God's people.

The basis for their giving was the sacrificial heart of Jesus Himself. He left the riches of heaven to come to earth to be a servant and to give His very life. "Though he was rich, yet for [our] sake he became poor" (v. 9).

May we too plead with God so that we might "excel in this grace of giving" (v. 7) in order to lovingly meet the needs of others.

Father in heaven, thank you for reminding us that even in the toughest of times we can be givers of your love. Amen

August 27, 2021

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