

The Camden Companion



Spreading the Good News in Woodford County

Vol. 1, Num 42 Evangelist & Editor: Wayde E. Miller Oct. 21, 2007

A LETTER TO CAMDEN AVENUE

Not all of what Jesus said is recorded in the four gospels. While the apostle Paul spoke to the Ephesian elders, he mentioned a simple statement made by Jesus Himself as an example of what to follow. Jesus said, "... *it is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35.) Paul said he worked with his hands to help the weak and to meet his own necessities.

Much is said in the New Testament about giving but suffice it to say that Christians are a giving people. They look for opportunities to help out in any way they can. Whether it is selling their possessions to help those in need (Acts 4:32-34) or working with their hands to have something to give to anyone in need (Eph. 4: 28) Christians understand the happiness of having something to give to others. Like the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, saints give themselves to the Lord and the rest comes easy even if they themselves suffer with issues.

However, sometimes we focus on being able to give because it is the more blessed part. As Christians we want to help others and that is our driving force. It can be difficult to be on the receiving end because we don't want to be a bother to others but there comes a time when we must be on the receiving end. We have to learn to let others know the blessedness to giving.

Robin and I have been through a difficult event and there is more to come. The members of Camden avenue have responded with more help, prayer, and support than can mentioned. There is such a thrill and excitement in standing back and letting our brethren go into action doing what they do best. Robin and I want you to know that we are humbled and impressed with the spirit of Christianity in this place. We love you all very much. While it is more blessed to give than to receive, there is a blessedness in watching brethren give their support, time, and assistance. .

DO YOU BELIEVE I CAN DO THIS?

Jesus was being followed by two blind men crying out for mercy from Him. There we pick up the story. *"When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him, and Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They said, 'Yes Lord.' Then He touched their eyes saying, 'According to your faith be it done to you.' And their eyes were opened..."* (Matthew 9:27-29.) Thus a miracle was done but there were conditions.

Jesus had the power to heal these blind men but it was the basis of their faith that they were healed. The Lord offered a great blessing to them and their faith claimed the blessing.

What if Jesus were to ask us that same question, "Do you believe I am able to do this?" We have so many promises of comfort and assistance made by the Lord yet we still fear that there will be failure. Think of an ocean analogy. Christians may often play in the surf but there comes a time to launch out into the deep and that scares many. Jesus told the people of His day, *"You are wrong because you know neither the scripture or the power of God"* (Matthew 22:29.) We know scripture but have doubts about the power of God. Like Thomas we want to SEE the nail scars in the hands of the Lord before we will believe.

Jesus promised to be where 2 or 3 were gathered in His name He would be there (Matt. 18:20.) If the Lord asked, "Do you believe I can do this?" we would answer Yes because scripture says so. The reality is that many don't because they stay away from services and miss the blessing of being with the Lord.

Jesus said He would be with His disciples to the end as they seek to evangelize the world (Matt. 28:19-20.) Do we believe He is able to do this? We know we should be teaching everyone but often don't because we think no one will listen. Jesus still says He is with us. Let's do it.

What of prayer. We know the Lord says prayers will be answered (Matt. 21:22) but we often pray with doubts (James 1:5-6.) Do we believe prayer will be answered? We have to ask according to the will of God to be sure but when we ask, do so with complete confidence and faith.

Jesus will come back some day to take us home to heaven (John 14:1-3.) We know the scripture but live selfishly as though we have all the time in the world. Yes, we miss out on a lot because we don't have the answer to the Lord's question.