

The Hands of an Encourager

Ephesians 2:10



Points in our Lesson Tonight

- **Benefits of Encouraging Deeds**
- **Giving is a Privilege**
- **The Duty of Encouragement**
- **An Eternal Investment**
- **Little Acts of Kindness**
- **The Test**
- **Celebrate the Small**
- **Ten Guidelines for Giving**



Benefits of Encouraging Deeds

- **Acts 20:35—**“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
- **Friendships—**deposits of love
- **Adventure—**creative interaction
- **Kindness—**begets kindness
- **Contagious—**ripples of kindness are far reaching
- **Contentment—**in making a difference



Giving is a Privilege

- **Not a burden—giving of self, time, etc.**
- **Opposite is selfishness—Biblical stories—Ahab killed Naboth, Korah’s rebellion against Aaron, Absalom against David, Ananias and Saphira**
- **Gave of themselves—Nehemiah, Paul**
- **“Givers endear themselves to others and establish a network of loving relationships while takers alienate people and have but one person on their team.**



The Duty/Ministry of Encouragement

- **Jesus' ministry—he went about doing good (Acts 10:38)**
- **Encouragement as a ministry God has prepared for us! (Ephesians 2:10)**
- **Christians are to be ready for every good work (2 Timothy 2:21; Titus 3:1)**



Little Acts of Kindness

- Giving is at the heart of the gospel
- John 3:16 —————> 1 John 3:16
- Money & material things=least meaningful gifts
- Except...something handmade! Why is that?
- Presents cannot be substituted for presence
- Zechariah 4:6, 10—Power of the Lord in small things



An Eternal Investment

- Christianity is more than “sound doctrine.”
- Wrong use of “sound doctrine” in our heritage
- Meant traditional party line on issues
- “Sound” means “healthy!” (1Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 4:3; Titus 1:9; Titus 2:1 (only in pastoral epistles))
- One of the healthiest doctrines on the face of the earth for Christians is encouraging others and investing in their lives!



The Test

- John 6:1-15
- Philip failed the test
- Andrew passed the test
- Lesson? The smallest effort is better than the greatest excuse



Celebrate the Small

- Small “gifts” of encouragement...possibilities are endless!
- Encouragement is...p. 101
- Encouragement is giving of self in small unheralded ways and loving every moment!



“Real greatness comes from small acts of goodness performed daily by those who trust God to bless even mustard seed size efforts to encourage.”

(Mark 11:23)



Ten Guidelines for Giving

1. Value you yourself
2. Don't barter...no strings attached (Luke14:14)
3. Start early
4. Begin at home
5. Act quickly



Ten Guidelines for Giving

6. Be alert

7. Enjoy giving

8. Redeem the time

9. Respect everyone

10. Think small

