

Mark Twain is credited with saying, “The best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer everybody else up.” There are great implications for the Christian that is ‘walking in the power of the resurrection’ in Twain’s statement. DOING something for others brings us great joy.

Recently I received a gift from a family member – Encouragement Changes Everything by John Maxwell. In the volume Maxwell tells the following story:

“Dan Clark recalls that when he was a teenager, he and his father once stood in line to buy tickets for the circus. As they waited, they noticed the family immediately in front of them. The parents were holding hands, and they had eight children in tow, all behaved well and all probably under the age of twelve. Based on their clean but simple clothing, he suspected they didn’t have a lot of money. The kids jabbered about the exciting things they expected to see, and he could tell that the circus was going to be a new adventure for them.

As the couple approached the counter, the attendant asked how many tickets they wanted. The man proudly responded, “Please let me buy eight children’s tickets and two adult tickets so I can take my family to the circus.”

When the attendant quoted the price, the man’s wife let go of his hand and her head dropped. The man leaned a little closer and asked, “How much did you say?” The attendant again quoted the price. The man obviously didn’t have enough money. He looked crushed.

Clark says his father watched all of this, put his hand in his pocket, pulled out a twenty-dollar bill, and dropped it on the ground.

His father then reached down, picked up the bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man knew exactly what was going on. He looked straight into Clark's father's eyes, took his hand, shook it, and with a tear streaming down his cheek, replied, "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."

Clark and his father went back to their car and drove home. They didn't have enough money to go to the circus that night, but it didn't matter. They had encouraged a whole family. And it was something neither family would ever forget."

Let's be about the business of blessing others.

Straight Ahead for Jesus!

Hugh L. Smith