

Wednesday Word June 25

Luke 21:1-4 “And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”

My wife Naomi comes from a very big family. She has over forty-five first cousins alone as her mom is one of eleven children. That is eleven families represented at all holidays and family gatherings. Years ago, Naomi’s grandfather made each of the eleven families a few game boards out of plywood and a drill press. The game is called aggravation. The idea is each player starts with five marbles, and they must move them from their starting point, all the way around the board from one single station to the next in succession and end at their selected destination. The small, drill-pressed stations in the shape of a cross are just embedded enough in the board to allow a single marble to rest in it. Along the way, players’ marbles can be sent back to the very beginning if another player’s marble lands on the same station as another. This can be very aggravating.

Over the last 30 years these game boards have circulated from one generation to the next and continue to provide a lot of family fun (and aggravation). Over the years the corner of the game boards has gotten chipped, the nice plywood finish has faded away and the surface has warped slightly. This past weekend my three youngest children were playing this game in the living room with the board Naomi’s family was given back in the 1990’s. It struck me that the simple act of kindness and creativity that Great-Grandpa Webster showed in making these simple gameboards still offers family togetherness and memories almost 40 years later. While my children may not realize it now, I couldn’t help but be touched by the legacy of family that echoes in that gameboard.

We so often don’t realize the weight of our actions and simple acts of love to those around us and the impact that they have. Many times, the simplest act, when done from the love that God gives us, will remain and grow in the lives of the ones we touched. Legacy isn’t about a big estate or financial gift, but it is about the qualities of God’s character that we allow to be sent through our lives.

The encouragement this week is simple: do not discount any simple things you do in the name of the Lord. That simple act that you may think is small, may be the very thing that others build their view of God through. God only needs faith the size of a mustard seed to make something meaningful to someone else.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric