

# Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

## You Gave Me Nothing

By Mark Hinely

*"For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me. They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you? He will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for the one of the least of these, you did not do for me'." Matt 25:41-45*

I just got back from eating lunch at a fast food place. As I left I noticed a man outside, leaning against the corner of the restaurant, probably trying to stay out of the rain. He didn't ask me for anything, but I know deep down he was probably hungry. I don't know if he was homeless, but I know that I could have helped him. I sat in my car for a minute and watched him in my rear view mirror. Then I just drove away. As soon as I left the parking lot I know I had made the wrong decision, and the guilt continues to gnaw at me.

Some people say, and I used to agree with them., that you should be careful who you give money to because " most of them just want drugs or alcohol". I know there are some who may want that, but it is hard to tell that just by looking at someone. and besides that, how many times have I used the blessings God has given me to sin. Or how many times have I worried that God might not provide me with food because I sinned against Him the day before? He blesses us in spite of our unworthiness and that makes me think we should bless others regardless of their worth. "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous we had done, but because of His mercy..." (Titus 3:4-5).

You see it is not the first time that this has happened to me. I've lost count of the less fortunate that I have withheld my help from, and I always tell myself, "The next time I see someone in need, I'm going to help them no matter what". Unfortunately, like today, I don't always follow through. As I drove away that man certainly didn't get the impression that I was a Christian, that I was different from the people in the drive-through line who ignored him as well. Who knows if he even needed anything, but the

least I could have done was to ask. I didn't even do the least. Who knows if there might have been an opportunity to share the gospel with him? God knows. More than that man's need for a meal is his need to know Jesus Christ. "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty' (John 6:35). If my concern for his hunger didn't convict me to act, certainly my concern for his soul should have convicted me.

I went to lunch today hoping to brainstorm for this article, maybe even narrow down the ideas I could write about. I got far more than I wanted: a painful reminder of my selfish nature and a large dose of humility.

### **Next Time, A way to help others.....**

I am sure we have all been in Mark Hinely's position, and as he says countless times. "Hey, buddy can you spare some money?" Often times in this age I can honestly say, I don't have any cash on me, but I do have access to blessings the Lord has bestowed on me at the nearest ATM! Most fast food restaurants, including McDonalds which seem to be everywhere, have gift certificates. Why not invest \$20.00 in four \$5.00 gift certificates and the next time you see some one hungry, you can bestow some of your blessings on him?

**mike minear**