Multiply the Good

The Mayor told City Officials this story:

When our state was placed on lockdown due to rising cases of coronavirus, our people were thrown into panic and despair. Grocery store shelves were empty, gas pumps were depleted, and people were stuck at home without adequate food and supplies.

A local charity sent a caseworker to a public housing complex to distribute cases of food. To some families they gave 5 cases of food; to others, two cases; and to some people, one case, to each according to their need and size of family. Then, they went away.

Immediately, one of the families that was given 5 cases prepared a huge meal, set up a table in the courtyard, and invited all the neighbors in their building to join in the feast. Another 5 families brought dishes of food to add to the community meal. All were able to eat their fill and take enough leftovers home to freeze and eat throughout the coming weeks.

Likewise, one of the families who received 2 cases of food, made a large meal and shared it with the neighbors on their floor who also contributed to the table of plenty. All ate their fill and had leftovers to keep them sustained.

But, one of the tenants who received one case of food, went home and hid the contents in the back of their pantry and locked the door for fear of running out of food or being robbed of what little they had.

After two weeks passed, the caseworker came back to check on the residents and see how they were getting along. One family who had received 5 cases of food came forward showing the prepared meals they had in the freezer. They said, "You gave us 5 cases of food. See, we have shared with the community in this building to be sure all were fed. And we still have meals for this week." The caseworker said to them, "Well done, good and faithful citizens. Since you were generous with these small portions, I will give you extra food and supplies that you may continue to work together with the residents in this building. Come, let us celebrate!"

Monica Walton 11/16/2020

Then one family who had received 2 cases of food came forward and said, "You gave us 2 cases of food. See, we shared with our neighbors on this floor, and still have food left over." The casework said to them, "Well done, good and faithful citizens. Since you were generous with these small portions, I will give you extra food and supplies that you may continue to work together with the residents on this floor. Come, let us celebrate!"

Then, one of the persons who had received one case of food came forward and said, "I was concerned with running out of food, and I was worried others may run out of food and come rob me of the little I have; so out of fear I hid my portion in the back of my pantry and locked the doors. See I still have the full case."

The caseworker said to him in reply, "You selfish, greedy person! So, you were worried about running out of food and being robbed? Since you weren't in need of this food, would it not have been good to check with your neighbors and see if they were in need? How well you could have served them! Plus, you would have gained new friends, and helped be sure all the residents were properly cared for during this troubling pandemic.

Now then! I will take the case of food from you and give it to the family that fed their entire building. For to everyone who has an open heart, more will be given and they will grow rich in compassion and generosity; but from the one who has a closed heart, even what he has will be taken away. For all that is given us is gift from God, and He invites us to share and care for one another in true friendship.

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