



**MONDAY, December 7, 2009:**

Deuteronomy 16:17 *“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.”*

To give or not to give? To make a contribution or not make a contribution? That is a question that has to be answered every day, whether it is at the shop or the church, whether it is at home or the school. As you start a new week, let me offer three things for you to consider concerning this subject of “making a contribution”:

First: ***Make one.***

Don’t just be an observer or taker, make a difference. Don’t keep score and worry about whether others are contributing or contributing enough; just make a contribution. Remember, what others contribute is a reflection on them; what you do is a reflection on you; make it a good one.

Second: ***Contribute what you can, no more or no less.***

It’s been said that the definition of insanity is comparing your weaknesses against someone else’s strengths. It is easy to do this when it comes to making a contribution. Remember, you **do** have something to offer. God put you on this planet; you are alive today for a purpose. Do what you can; give it your very best and worry about the score when you get to heaven.

Third: ***Let your contribution be a reflection of how God has blessed you, not a reflection of how you feel at the moment.***

This week you are going to have highs and lows. You’re going to feel good and you’re going to feel bad; nevertheless...just keep giving your best. Do this long enough and you will discover that you have found one of the keys to success – make a contribution no matter where you are.

**SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:2,4**

**TUESDAY, December 8, 2009:**

Deuteronomy 8:16 *“that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end”*

It was the great Christian thinker, C. S. Lewis, that once said, *“We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be.”*

Not knowing (the fear of the unknown) is probably at the root of most of our fears. I suspect that the reason most people struggle with completely surrendering their life to God is that they are afraid of what it might cost. They know intellectually that God is a good God and can be trusted, but to step out into the unknown, even when God knows, is still unnerving.

If you’re going through one of those “unnerving” times, I wish I could make it easier for you, but I can’t. But, I can tell you again what I have to remind myself also – in the end I will be better for what I’m going through right now; and so will you.

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:28**

**WEDNESDAY, December 9, 2009:**

Numbers 10:9 *“When you go to war...”*

In today’s verse, God had instructed Moses to inform Israel what it was going to be like when they entered into their new country. One of the things he let them know was that there was going to be war.

Moses didn’t say, “If you go to war,” he said, “WHEN you go to war.”

Nothing has changed in our time. If you intend to possess the promises God has for you, conflict will be unavoidable. Life will have conflict; that is a fact. There will be challenges, tests, and conflict. This is just a part of the process of reaching your “promised land.”

The key is not to despair; victory is promised. This is why God lets you know up front, so that during the heat of the battle you can have the calm assurance that in the end you are on the winning side.

So today, stay focused, do not despair, expect conflict, but also expect victory.

**SCRIPTURE: John 16:33**

**THURSDAY, December 10, 2009:**

Numbers 15:37-40 *“...make tassels on the corners of your garments...and put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners.”*

When I read today’s verse I thought of Wayne Ludlam’s “marble ministry.” Briefly, his marble ministry consists of wearing a red marble on his clothing; people see it and ask what it stands for and he then has an opportunity to share the Gospel with them by explaining that it represents the blood of Jesus.

However, Wayne’s marble serves another purpose. It is like the tassels that God instructed the Israelis to wear. It was a reminder to them that they were separated unto God and represented him wherever they went. When people asked them about the tassels, they would be able to explain the reality of God’s love and plan of salvation.

However, can you imagine what kind of negative impact their witness would have if their lives didn’t match their testimony? That is why God had them wear the tassels; not only as a witness, but also as a reminder that they were called to live out the reality of what they were witnessing about.

What are your “tassels”? Maybe it is your Bible placed in a prominent place on your desk, or the music you listen to, or the things you talk about. But bottom line, if it is not obvious to those around you that you are a Christian, then you may not be!

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:13**

*“True leaders ought not worry greatly about occasional mistakes, but they must vigilantly guard against those things that will make them feel ashamed.”* \_Jon M. Huntsman