

Waste Not, Want Not

"The cross is where you leave your burdens and walk in faith."

One of the things parents often say to their children is, "Waste not, want not." They are trying to make a connection for their children between the responsible use of resources that are available and healthy living. Sometimes that meant only putting on our plates what we could eat rather than what our eyes told us we wanted. At other times, to "waste not want not" meant grasping and using an opportunity to develop something good in our life or to offer the gift of our life to our community.

God has offered us a wonderful resource in the life of His son, Jesus Christ. God knew that we could not handle life on our own. God knew that we would get our lives and relationships cluttered with sin and guilt and shame and resentment and disappointment. God chose to make a way for us to live free and live well. His way was to put all of our sin and sorrow and suffering on Jesus, to have Jesus die for us and in His death to remove the sorrow and suffering and punishment we deserved. God does not want us to waste one more day of living in the pain, confusion, and suffering of our sin or the sins of others against us.



When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5)

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins! But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all. (Isaiah 53)

Many of us walk around from day to day with worries, guilt, anger, fear, shame and troubles. We waste the gift of God offered to us in Jesus Christ. We find ourselves wanting more out of life - more joy and peace; more meaning and satisfaction; more gentleness; more forgiveness and caring. The only supply to those needs is the cross of Jesus. Our part of the process is to let go of these things that harm us and hold us back, put them on the cross with Jesus, and receive back rest and peace and God's new way of living.

Many of us have whole sets of things that we are willing to put on Jesus, but other things that we hang onto and it's those things that rob our lives and our relationships of the joy and beauty that God intended. In what way is my life "not right" today? What relationship causes me pain or shame, irritation or anger? How am I worrying? What am I afraid of? God has promised to never leave us or forsake us. God has promised to care for our concerns if we will cast them on Him.

God invites us to find our steadiness in His love. God encourages us to keep our commitment to doing what is right - loving God and loving our neighbour as we love ourselves. All the rest is His concern and His business. We can't earn God's love. We can't deal with the things that have gone wrong in life, or just the unexpecteds that come our way. We are people who will stray away and wander into circumstances or attitudes that are harmful for us. The cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ stands as an absolutely certain fact that God can make a way for us through anything. God reminds us that if we confess our sins He is able and willing to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all our wrongs. We waste His good mercy in our lives if we walk in the dark and the negative when God has made a way for us to walk in the light with peace and joy and settledness in our hearts.

What do we need to give away today in order to not waste the gift of the cross? What do we need to welcome into our lives that the cross earned for us so we can live deeply and with complete security?