Priceless Gifts That Don't Cost A Thing

I love this time of the year! The lights, the parties, and the presents are just a small part of what make this a magical time of the year. I am like a kid waiting to see the looks on the faces of my children on Christmas morning as they open their presents from under the tree. What Jesus said is true, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). That being said, all those gifts can also make this an expensive time of the year. Some people take all year either saving for or trying to pay off the money spent on presents and various other luxuries. With that in mind I wanted to remind us that you don't have to spend a lot of money to give some wonderful gifts. As a matter of fact some of the most priceless gifts don't cost a thing. If money is tight or even if it is not you might consider giving some of these wonderful gifts.

A sincere compliment can make someone's day and encourage them to keep doing the good they might otherwise become weary in doing. Proverbs 3:27 reminds us, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." While it might not be within our power to give someone a day off or a big raise, we all are able to give a compliment. Tell someone that you have noticed and appreciate the things that they do for you or others. Jesus complimented the centurion's faith Matthew 8:10 saying, Truly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel." That man was only being what he should have been. Jesus did not have to say anything, but do you think he ever forgot what Jesus said about him on that day? Would you? Look for those who are going above and beyond expectations and let them know that someone noticed. Look for those who are just dependable in doing what they are supposed to do and thank them. The truth is that you can

find something worthy of a sincere compliment in almost any man, and you just might inspire their life with your priceless gift.

A golden deed shows others that we care about them enough to give up some of our own time and resources for their benefit. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 7:12, "however you want people to treat you, so treat them." The possibilities are limitless as to how we can do this. Bring back an extra drink for a friend or coworker, help someone with a heavy load or a pressing assignment, cook a little extra and share a meal, or even let someone have their way when it doesn't really matter. There are millions of ways we can give this gift to others. Think of things that you wish others would do for you, and then do it for someone else. Acts 9:36 tells us about a woman named Tabitha who was "abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did." Tabitha may have never had a lot of money but she touched many lives with her golden deeds. "So then while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10)

Finally, we need to know that we can give a great gift to everyone who knows us simply by having a cheerful disposition. We all know people that make life brighter by their very presence in our day. They give us more than they may ever know. I want to be that person for someone else. Proverbs reminds us that "a joyful heart makes a cheerful face," (15:13) and that "a joyful heart is good medicine," (17:22). It doesn't cost a dime to put a smile on our face and share a contagious excitement for life and our relationship with God, but it might be just what some needs in their time of distress.

I've been given a lot of gifts through the years. Some were quite expensive that I really have no idea what happened to them. I can tell you where I keep the encouraging words people have sent to me over the years. I will never forget the people who have done things for me that they didn't have to do but did anyway out of the goodness of their hearts. I also have no trouble thinking of the people who have shown me the brighter side of life even when it was hard to see. I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season filled with family, parties, sweets, and even presents. Just don't forget that some of the most priceless presents don't cost us a thing.