

A Cheerleader's Sacrifice

A church was undergoing a capital stewardship campaign for a new sanctuary. The pastor decided to have members share their testimony of their willingness to give to see the new sanctuary become a reality. One Sunday a businessman got up and told how much the church meant to him. He revealed that he was going to commit a whole year's salary to the campaign over the next three years. While no one knew just how much that would be they were impressed.

The next week the pastor feeling that he needed someone younger to share asked a ninth grade cheerleader to give her testimony. Little Laura nervously stood before her church and shared about how excited she was about the new sanctuary. "I have been wondering what I can do to give to help make this happen," she stated. Then she said, "I sensed God asking me if I loved Him more than I loved cheerleading. I replied that of course I did. Would you give up cheerleading for me?" Then it hit me that if I gave up cheerleading, the cost of the uniforms, the camps and fees I could have money to give to this campaign." With joy in her heart Laura gave up cheerleading the rest of her high school years in order to give financially to support the new sanctuary.

The businessman gave far more than Laura gave. However guess whose testimony made the biggest impression? It was the little cheerleader's testimony that impacted the church the most. **You see it truly is not how much you give but the measure of sacrifice you give.**

Paul wrote to the church of Corinth about the offering for the poor in Jerusalem. They had said they would give but at the time of Paul's writing they had yet to give. Paul said to them in II Corinthians 8: 11 – 12, "Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have."

This morning as our ushers come forward for our morning offering let's remember it is not so much the amount given that matters but our willingness to give according to our means. May our gift be given today in the same spirit of that young cheerleader.