

What Is Your Gift Teaching?

Have you ever considered what your gift is teaching to your kids? The late Baptist preacher W.A. Criswell tells a story about the importance of what our gift teaches. Criswell pastored in Dallas, Texas where the State Fair of Texas is held every fall. It is a huge fair with an extensive midway. He tells a story of a father taking his little boy and girl to the fair. Each child wants to ride different rides. One rides the merry go round. That takes several dollars. Another child rides the roller coaster. That is a few dollars more. Throughout the day they spend additional dollars on popcorn, peanuts and corny dogs. Criswell points out that by the end of the day the little boy and the little girl have spent ten dollars each. That might have been true in 1980 when Criswell was a pastor but you can be sure that amount is much more. The point is that no one worried about the expense of an evening of fun.

Criswell then expands that the next day the family goes to church. The father gives each child a dime to put into the offering plate. Criswell says, “The father does not need to say anything more. The children have learned the lesson early and well. Popcorn is big business. The midway is big business. But God’s business is little business. That is ten cents. The children have learned well.”

A few years back Robert Fulghum published a book entitled, “All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten.” While we might disagree with the title one thing is for sure, we learn a lot in our early years. You may not think that your offering is teaching your children anything but you would be wrong. You probably have never thought of the offering as a teachable moment but it is. As we prepare for our offering today my question to you is, what is your gift teaching your children? Do you and your family spend more money at the fairs of our world than you give to the church? Today’s offering is a teachable moment. What are you teaching with your gift?

As our ushers come forward for our offering today consider what Psalm 96:8 says, “Ascribe to the Lord, the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.” What is your offering saying today?

Criswell, W.A “Criswell’s Guidebook for Pastors” Broadman Press 1980 Nashville, TN p. 145