

"Live as examples of Christ Jesus"

Devotions for Deacons

Encourage Them with Deeds
that Bring Joy into Their Lives

Title:

Scripture:

Mark 10:13-16

Text:

Matthew 5:16

“You are the light of the world. So let that light shine! Through your good deeds, glorify God. And bring joy into the lives around you.”

Imagine the scene. Jesus is teaching the people. He speaks with authority and they are listening to every word. Soon, Pharisees come up—teachers of the people, with authority of their own. Can you imagine them cutting through the crowds? People part to let them pass. *They* are the religious leaders. Who is this man, then, and with what authority does he teach? Their very steps must show their determination and indignation as they approach.

Does Jesus stop teaching as they come? He knows why they are there. He knows their heart, and the hate that consumes them. The Pharisees ask Jesus a hostile question, meant to test Him. Jesus answers perfectly, and the Pharisees go away, presumably dissatisfied. You can almost hear the murmurs of the crowd. The air must have been full of tension. Yet Jesus and the disciples go into a nearby house to talk further about what had happened.

The crowd, though, is not yet ready to leave. They have just witnessed Jesus disarm the Pharisees, and, with boldness, proclaim the truth. They must have been amazed. They immediately wanted some of His power for themselves. Surely this is also a man with authority to bless. If only He would notice their children. So they bring them to Jesus. The disciples, however, are not quite finished with their discussion.

They tell the people to leave them alone. But Jesus will have none of it. He tells them that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to little children. How that must have confused the disciples. Little children? But their serious discussions must surely be more important. Yet Jesus stops in the middle of these discussions to open up His arms. He takes the children on His lap. He holds them. He blesses them.

Can you imagine the joy for the parents of those children? Their children are blessed and loved by Jesus—these little ones, perhaps running, skipping and laughing, oblivious to the tension and discussions around them. What an amazing thing that Jesus stops to delight in little children!

It is easy, as deacons, for us to be swept up in the administrative details. There are important ministry tasks to do. There is money to count and distribute. There is another meeting next week. There are causes to look into.

Stop.

In the middle of it all, stop and go visit a widow. Talk to the person standing alone after church. Give a hug. Write a note of encouragement. You are the light of the world. So let that light shine! Through your good deeds, glorify God. And bring joy into the lives around you.