



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

- The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later they were both eaten by a killer whale.
- A psychology student in New York rented out her spare room to a carpenter in order to nag him constantly and study his reactions. After weeks of needling, he snapped and beat her repeatedly with an ax leaving her mentally retarded.
- In 1992, Frank Perkins of Los Angeles made an attempt on the world flagpole-sitting record. Suffering from the flu he came down eight hours short of the 400 day record, his sponsor had gone bust, his girlfriend had left him and his phone and electricity had been cut off.
- A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current she whacked him with a handy plank of wood by the back door, breaking his arm in two places. Till that moment he had been happily listening to his Walkman.
- Two animal rights protesters were protesting at the cruelty of sending pigs to a slaughterhouse in Bonn. Suddenly the pigs, all two thousand of them, escaped through a broken fence and stampeded, trampling the two hapless protesters to death.
- Iraqi terrorist, Khay Rahnajet, didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with "return to sender" stamped on it. Forgetting it was the bomb, he opened it and was blown to bits.
- Fire investigators on Maui have determined the cause of a blaze that destroyed a \$127,000 home last month - a short in the homeowner's newly installed fire prevention alarm system. "This is even worse than last year," said the distraught homeowner, "when someone broke in and stole my new security system..."

Sometimes our intentions just don't work out. It seems that I can have the best intentions in the world but somehow, there is something lurking around the corner to foil them.

Chuck Swindoll, my favorite Christian writer, calls these "well intentioned mistakes". Now granted the Iraqi described above didn't have good intentions and got his just desserts, but generally folks have good intention in a variety of circumstances and it just backfires. Good or bad intentions can really foul things up sometimes. Swindoll tells this story of a particular Christmas where a company decided to give all of the employees and managers very large, expensive turkeys for Christmas. One particular manager was despised by practically every employee in the company. With that in mind, the three employees that were

in charge of preparing the Christmas boxes, which included the turkey of course, decided that for that particular one manager they would add a little “spice” to his turkey. They stuffed it with cow chips. As the close of business came that day the manager climbed aboard the city bus to head home. As he stood there holding his Christmas box, he spied a rather unkempt old fellow that looked as though he hadn’t had a decent meal in weeks so.....yep, you guessed it.....he gave the old fellow his Christmas box as he exited the bus. Now that is a “well intentioned mistake”!!!!

Sure, those things happen, but those situations should never deter us from acting out our good intentions. One very valid reason is the fact that our good intentions are simply that...Good. How they are perceived can be altered by the recipient’s frame of mind. I know from experience that my good intentions can be taken entirely wrong. But, I will continue to be a giver.

A good litmus test for actions of good intentions is simply this. Did you “give” to “get”? Is there a string attached to your “generosity”? Is there an ulterior motive? If so, then you are manipulating and motivating. The fruit of those actions is always negative. God will not honor those intentions.

The Bible says that God loves a “cheerful giver”. That scripture generally comes on the heels of a tithing sermon or a pitch for an expensive project or purchase. There are many ways to be a giver outside the confines of the church structure. If giving is a passion for you, try supporting a project that aids the hurting folks in your community. Perhaps a young person who has lost a parent and is facing college expenses would be a candidate or someone whom has lost their job. Or, how about working a deal out with a local restaurant to feed the hungry with a coupon for a meal? The ideas are limitless. This type of giving is where real outreach happens. Why? Because, YOU are reaching out to a hurting world all on your own. You don’t need a big organization to initiate the project. Do it yourself!

And your giving doesn’t have to be monetary in nature. Services to the elderly or disabled are always appreciated. Building and repairing things around the home is a special blessing for folks on fixed incomes. If you are a musical person, why not go play for a sick friend or a group of elderly at a nursing facility? Really, the opportunities are endless and you can do it on your own. You don’t need a church or civic group to handle it. You can do it all by yourself and sense great fulfillment from the act of kindness! You will control your investment, putting it right where your heart is.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each man should give what **he has decided** in **his** heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And that’s....The Gospel Truth!!

Email your comments or questions to:
patcorn@maizeone.com

Visit Pat’s website at www.maizeone.com