

Time Equals Treasure: Religious Perspective

Psalms 37:21

"A righteous person deals graciously and gives"

2 Corinthians 8

1 Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. 2 Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. 3 I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could--far more than they could afford!- 4 pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.

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Muslim Theme:

Muhammad (pbuh) said, "It is very important for every Muslim to give charity." Muhammad's Companions asked, "But if he does not have anything to give?" He said, "If has nothing to give, he must do work with his hands to obtain something and benefit himself; and give part of what he earns with the remainder." They said, "But if he is not able to do that work, to benefit himself and give part of what he earns?" Muhammad (pbuh) replied, "Then he should assist the needy and the oppressed." They then asked, "What if he is not able to assist the oppressed?" He said, "Then he should encourage people to do good." They asked, "And if he cannot?" He said, "Then let him keep himself from doing harm to people; for that too is a form of giving and charity for him."

Processing Questions:

1. What did you discover about money and volunteering today?
2. How do volunteers donate money when they don't actually have money?
3. What would happen in our communities if no one volunteered? How would our community be different?
4. Why do you think people volunteer?
5. What keeps people from volunteering and how could we remove these barriers?
6. In what way is it a privilege to help the poor?
7. Why is righteousness produced by giving, and dealing graciously with others?
8. In what ways could the faith community mobilize volunteers to address issues of poverty?
9. In what ways do you see people in this faith community volunteering for the good of others?

Muslim Perspective:

1. According to the Islamic sayings of Muhammad (pbuh) above, what should someone do if he has nothing to give?
2. Why does Muhammad want people to give even if they don't have anything?
3. How does finding something to give help the person who is giving? Example: When someone finds a job so he can give in charity, that helps both the giver and the receiver.

