

Learning from Early Christians

Gregory of Nazianzus lived in the 300's A.D. Respected for his godliness and wisdom, he was a theologian and Archbishop of Constantinople. He tells of learning from his father about giving to needy people.

His father told him not to worry that he might give to some people who did not deserve it. It is far more important, his father said, to fear that we will not give to someone who does deserve it. Gregory's father used his resources to live out this truth.

This reminded me that when Jesus comes in his glory at the Judgment, he will say to some:

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world." Because they had cared for him when he was needy.

But these people will be puzzled: When did they care for Jesus?

"When you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" (Matthew 25:22-40 NLT)



Coffee/tea thought: Ponder for a moment Jesus' teaching that when we give to someone in need, we are actually giving to Jesus. How will this effect my feelings about giving to needy people?

John

跟早期的基督徒学

拿先斯的贵格利生活在主 300 年期间。他敬虔，有智慧，很受人敬重。他是个神学家，也是君士坦丁的主教。有次他讲到他父亲教他帮助穷人的事。

他父亲说，不要担心帮助了那些不配得帮助的人。最要担心的事，是沒有去帮助那些我们应该要去帮助的人。贵格利的父亲如此说，也如此行。

这故事让我想起大审判时，耶稣会对一些人说："来吧，蒙我父赐福的人，一起来享受创世以前就为你们预备的天国。"主说，当我有需要的时候，你们帮助过我。

但这些人却很惊讶说，"我们什么时候帮过你呢？"

主这样回答，"你们做在我弟兄姐妹中最小的一位，就是做在我身上！"



随想：想想一下耶稣的教导，我们给一个有需要的人，我们其实就是给了耶稣。这样想，我们帮助别人时有什么不一样的感受？

史建恩