

Day 20

DEPOSITS: Investing in Others

*Let this be written for a future generation,
that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.*

Psalm 102:18

*Transformation in the world happens
When people are healed and start investing in other people.*

Michael W. Smith

“Don’t store treasures for yourselves here on earth where moths and rust will destroy them and thieves can break in and steal them. But store your treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed by moths or rust and where thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your treasure is” (Matthew 6: 19-21 NCV)

In today’s reading, Eric Rees tells us that we can invest our lives for God’s kingdom by investing in others. We are to “pay forward” the blessings we have received from God. He suggests that a good place to start is to look at your sphere of influence....family, friends and coworkers. Invite them to church, or a Bible study or other activities that may not be church related. Allowing others to witness love in action can be life changing. Showing others how a Christian lives and deals with life’s circumstances, be they good or bad, will allow them to see the gospel in you without your saying a word about the Bible. (*Action really does speak louder than words*)

Rees invites us to participate in an exercise where you draw a concentric circle with you in the center. The names of those whom you have the most influence go in the next circle from the center... most likely your family. The next circle should contain the names of those who respect you and who come to you for advice. In the last circle should be people whose lives you have the least influence... neighbors or casual friends. Starting today, think of some practical things you can do to encourage, guide and assist these people in positive ways. Rees continues that you should consider how to best represent Christ everywhere you go in all parts of your life. Like tossing a rock in a pond, the smallest deposit can ripple across an ocean of time.

If you want your treasures to last for a long time you must invest them wisely. If you invest in others especially the young, it is likely that they will pass your treasures on to future generations.

Some tools for passing on your treasures include:

- Books... Reading is a way to connect people across generations. Give books that have impacted your life to other people. You might even write a book that shares your experiences.
- Encouragement...A smile or kind word can brighten what may be a very bad day for someone. Rees describes this encouragement as ‘verbal vitamins’ that can fortify lives for whatever the cruel world might throw in our paths.
- Prayer...When we pray for and with others we invite heaven into their lives.

Rees challenges us to look for ways to invest our treasure instead of burying it here on earth. The best way to invest it is to share it with others.

- If God shows you someone to help, help that person.
- Look for open doors of opportunity.
- Ask people how you can help them.
- If God has healed you, apply that healing to someone else who is hurting.
- Be willing to go first, take risks, and then surrender the outcome to God.

Prayer: *Father, we come to you with full hearts and we pour them out to you. Show us how we can best use those elements you poured into our lives to build up treasures in heaven. How can we invest in your kingdom by using what you've given us here on earth? Help us to build bridges to heaven everywhere we go. As Jesus gave his life for others, show us how to give our lives too. We ask this in Jesus' name...Amen*