

Musical Hearts

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”~ Matt 6:21

In a very real way, God’s people are like musical instruments. They do nothing when the musician does not touch them. But God plays beautiful heavenly music through us as he plucks the strings of our hearts, transforming the world person by person.

Our hearts need to be tuned. They need a divine tune-up if we are to live in concert with God’s will, for we want our own way. God’s way is the right key to how it will be done.

One gift God has given us is to show love and light, especially in the dark and difficult moments of life. St. Francis of Assisi said, “A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.” God fills us with light which does not depend on earthly circumstances. He makes us a lighthouse which warns of worldly and dangerous rocks. We can guide people safely to heavenly shores.

Perhaps the best thing God can do is to give us a vision which sees not with the eyes, but with the heart. Helen Keller, who could not see or hear, but was an inspiration to many, among her many words which described her heart vision were these: “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.”

When we get to the place where we are seeing with the heart rather than our eyes, we can really see. Seeing with a heart which really cares, thinks about others first, and puts God’s way above all ways is the beginning of a life of blessing.

It is not too late to start this process. We must not think we are too little, too young, too old, or too limited in any way to do something which will help someone else. Warren Buffet put it rightly when he said, “Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

We must find all of life to find any of life. We are called to live boldly, to be people of vision who daily see their role as growing a better future. We can paralyze ourselves with worries about what might be. We can focus on the minor things rather than the greater things. But when God fills our hearts, we are filled with a love which is action at all times. God sent his son to earth to save us. He didn’t just think about it. He did it.

“The only calibration that counts,” writes Ted Hughes, “is how much heart people invest, how much they ignore their fears of being hurt or caught out or humiliated. And the only thing people regret is that they didn’t live boldly enough, that they didn’t invest enough heart, didn’t love enough. Nothing else really counts at all.”

In money terms, people who begin saving and investing for retirement as teens will amass a fortune. People who start at the last minute-nothing.

In heart terms, if we begin investing in God's kingdom right now, we will find riches in heaven we never thought possible. And the road from here to there will be paved by the people and situations which were blessed by your heart of God.

When we describe faith in terms of music, we begin to see how clearly and completely faith can be given to others. Despite the barriers, no matter the differences, the words shine clearly, the thoughts come across completely.

Lou Rawls, one of the greatest singers of our time, reflected, "Music is the greatest communication in the world. Even if people don't understand the language that you're singing in, they still know good music when they hear it."

One of the great songs of faith, written over five hundred years ago, says this. "Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, Make thee a bed, soft undefiled within my heart, that it may be a quiet chamber kept for Thee. My heart for very joy doth leap, my lips no more can silence keep; I, too must sing with joyful tongue that sweet ancient cradle song." ~ Martin Luther

God's music speaks volumes. "It speaks most effectively and clearly through Christian hearts." Whether in the rousing presentation of the powerful Hallelujah Chorus, or a quiet action taken to help someone get through their day, the heart music of God is the most powerful force anywhere.

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you," writes the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, "pales in comparison to what lies inside of you." For the Christian, it is Christ dwelling in our hearts which prompts the ministry we do. We cannot help but do it, for he does it through us.