

The Lesson of the Chicken and the Pig

Listening to podcasts is a popular way to bide one's time. Often, someone will refer me to a podcast that they like, but I must admit, I seldom go there. It seems I am content or stuck on the ones I have in my own podcast library. Listening to these favorites is what urges me to head to SH&W and get on a machine. For 30 to 45 minutes, I am absorbed in the message in my earbuds and I am pleased to say that in my old(er) age it is much more desirable to be drawn to a sermon or lesson from the Bible. I think it's because I can get done with my physical workout and feel good that I have had a spiritual workout as well.

One lesson I remember well was centered around the story from Mark about the poor widow who gave all she had and even though it wasn't much, her gift was the most honored gift in the eyes of God.

Alistar Begg, was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1952 and still carries a distinctive Scottish accent after nearly 30 years of ministry in the United States. I love to listen to him preach and I find his accent most appealing. His humor and accent seem to help me remember the lesson he is speaking on. One lesson was about three ugly characteristics: greed, pride and hypocrisy. In it, Alistar told the story of the chicken who asked his friend, the pig, if he would like to go into business together. "Sure," the pig replied, "but what sort of business will it be?" The chicken suggested they go into the bacon and egg business, to which the pig said, "I am not sure, because, you see for you it will be a contribution, but for me it will be a sacrifice."

That story made me laugh, but it continues to make me think as well. How much do I sacrifice? How much should I sacrifice? Or is sacrifice even necessary to do good? I will not attempt to answer those questions for you, but I can tell you that they have caused me considerable thought.

The fifth Give to Grow Challenge has come and gone and it was an extreme success. \$185,659 was donated by 198 donors, and added to this total was \$80,000 given by six matching donors for a grand total of \$265,659, distributed to 47 different local nonprofit groups. Large and small donations, contributions, and yes, sacrifices, came in by mail, through the website and at the walk-in day downtown. GSCF is proud to host an event that has garnered so much attention for these nonprofits and helped them stay sustainable.