

Do You Give to Beggars?

If a masked beggar knocked on your door at night asking for food would you turn him away? You are probably thinking I would not even open the door. You're wrong! For in just a few days you are going to do exactly that! In fact some of you will not only give them food you will open wide your doors, take a picture of them and gush at how cute that masked beggar is!

Oh, did I forget to mention the masked beggar is only four feet tall and lives the next street over and he is asking for candy? At no other time of the year do Americans throw open their doors for complete strangers dressed up in all kinds of costumes and so freely give candy away. The smaller that little beggar the cuter they are AND the more candy we freely hand out. Right?

Yet what if when you open the door the grown man down the street is there with a sack asking for candy? We are not so excited as in our minds Halloween is about kids not adults. Your perspective changes. You might go ahead and give him a piece of candy but you probably are not as generous as you were for the little kid in the mask. If you do give him candy it is begrudgingly as you really question his need for a free gift from you.

My point is that we are generous when we believe there is a need and more hesitant to give when we question the need. While it might seem a stretch to compare giving away candy on Halloween to putting money in the offering plate it does prove a point. We give to that which we feel good about. When we pass the offering here do you view us as the cute kid or the grown man down the street?

At OUR CHURCH we don't beg you to give. We simply offer you a chance to join us in the life changing things we are doing each and every day. Our ministries and missions initiatives are making a difference here in our town and region and throughout the world. We don't waste the money you give us. We use it to extend the Kingdom of God. Your gifts, all of them, matter.

So, as we pass the offering please know that we do truly need your support. At the same time we never ask that you give out of compulsion but that you give freely as you feel God leading you. We are not beggars with our hand out. We are changing the world and offering you a chance by your generosity to help us accomplish our mission!