

July 2018 Grand Prelate Message

Sir Knights;

In the Order of the Temple, the Commander states a line that is frequently used in churches today. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven". In many denominations, the minister will say this prior to the offertory. It is a time to remind us that we need to return a portion of all that we have been given to our Father in Heaven.

What is the portion that we need to return? That is a very good question. Some believe in the biblical tithe of ten percent of all that we are. That includes our time and talents. Some believe that is a monetary value.

In truth, what we give is a personal decision between us and God. Over life, what God expects from us might change. At times, we might be asked to give a little more. Sometimes, we might be asked to give a little less. The direction with which we give our time and talents might very well change over life's journey

Each day, you might receive mail asking for your support for a particular organization. As we watch television, we might see a commercial asking for us to donate to a particular cause. As Masons, there are a host of causes that would like our financial backing. The decision to give, particularly in a time of such world need, can give us pause to question.

As Knights Templar, it is at these times that our Lord is calling us to act. Rather than stand idly by, we must step up and allow the Spirit of God to guide us over those rugged paths of life.

In pondering the question of giving, my thoughts turn to one of the heroes of the early Christian Church. His name is Telmarchus. Telmarchus was a small man. However, he was a devout Christian. He lived at a time when gladiator games were still popular in the Roman Empire. He knew they were wrong. On one particular day, the stadium was full for the games. Two combatants were in the ring. Telmarchus knew that he needed to do something. So, he jumped into the ring and put himself between the two large gladiators. The crowd roared with laughter and the gladiators tossed Telmarchus aside. Again and again, Telmarchus placed himself between the gladiators. The crowd began to tire of his antics and began to cheer against him. Finally, one of the gladiators raised their weapon and brought it down on Telmarchus. Telmarchus fell and died in the arena. At his death, the crowd went silent. The gladiators lay down their weapons. With his death, the gladiator fights ended in that part of the Empire. A small man, with devout faith, took action and changed the world.

The light of God is within all of us. We need to let it shine. Does it mean giving all of ourselves? In Telmarchus' s, the answer was yes. For most, it will not. It does call us to act. In a world that has so much need, we must act.

As we live out our lives, as Knights Templar, may we ask God to give us the strength to act at times when there is a need. May the Spirit guide us with the wisdom of where our time and talents are best needed. And may we follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in giving ourselves to help those who are in need.

Until we meet again, may the God's Peace be always with us.

Mark Pennypacker
Grand Prelate