



Sermon title

It is Good to Share

Sermon text

Hebrews 13:16

"Do not forget to do good and to share with those in need."

Possible introductions

Humorous

Surprisingly, little Johnny brought a bag of peanuts to the birthday party. Surprisingly, because little Johnny did not have a good history for sharing. Among the parents of the neighborhood, he was often described as selfish Johnny. So for him to bring this delectable treat to share with his friends was quite a turnabout.

"That is so nice of you, Johnny," affirmed Billy's mother. "Thank you for bringing this snack to share with the others."

"I'm happy to do it," Johnny replied. "I don't really like peanuts so when my mother bought me some peanut M&Ms, I sucked the chocolate off of them and then decided I would share the rest with my friends."

Statistical

Every year, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, an initiative of the United Nations, publishes a World Happiness Report. This publication, using data from the Gallup World Poll, surveys citizens in countries all over the world seeking their degree of happiness.

The 2022 report noted something very interesting occurring all over the globe. In the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis, a "pandemic of benevolence" had emerged. As the needs of people rose, the generosity of people skyrocketed. And from this swelling goodness, happiness was boosted. "There is a happiness bonus when people get to be of service themselves," noted one of the researchers. "Whether you are volunteering your time or donating your money, you'll find yourself a good deal happier for it."

Consider the challenges of sharing

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Materialism | <input type="checkbox"/> Skepticism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear | <input type="checkbox"/> Apathy |



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Proclaim the Christian calling to share

- ☐ Jesus sharing five loaves of bread and two fish. (John 6:1-14)
- ☐ The widow's mite. (Luke 21:1-4)
- ☐ The first century church of Acts. (Acts 2:42-47)
- ☐ Hebrews 13:16

Exegesis on Hebrews 13:16

The New Testament book of Hebrews is a document fraught with mystery. Over the centuries, there has been considerable debate about who wrote it, to whom it was written, when it was written and what were the circumstances behind its writing. It is a text swirling in a conundrum of biblical scholarship.

Despite this, there is much to be gained by a careful study of this first century writing. Many modern scholars are convinced that, instead of a letter, Hebrews is a sermon. Likely preached to a first century congregation weary from the grind of doing faithful ministry in a secular society. As the renowned preacher Thomas Long suggests, "the threat to this congregation is not that they are charging off in the wrong direction; they do not have enough energy to charge off in any direction." To these people (and to us), speak the words of Hebrews.

Reflect on the needs of our world

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|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased poverty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural disasters | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health crisis | |

Consider some of the avenues for sharing

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|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial gifts | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church programs | <input type="checkbox"/> School organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organizations | |

Explore Church World Service as a partner in sharing

Reference [cwskits.org/stories-and-reports](https://www.cwskits.org/stories-and-reports) to find data and stories.

Issue a call to sharing

Closing

