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APPEALS FOR MONEY

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"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

Moore College
Library

Do you ever get sick of all these appeals for money that are made? It seems that every good cause in the world is taken up in Australia and we are asked to give towards it. We must be the world's biggest suckers. First of all there are our own local good causes like the Parents and Citizens and the Scouts; then there are people who collect for the poor in other parts of Sydney, like the Smith Family and the Salvation Army. Then on top of that we are always being bombarded by requests for charity beyond our own shores - Kampuchea, Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Eritrea - an unending list of unheard of places. What right have such people got to keep asking us for money? Why should we give like this? It's better for them if we don't give anyhow. It is irritating to be asked all the time; and often we are asked in front of friends and family, and then it is hard to say 'no'. Why can't people look after their own? Why should they sponge off us? It's so much easier to give (if we have to) through a raffle. Then we stand a chance of getting a return for our money; you have a bit of fun, and at the same time you are giving to a worthy cause and it makes you feel good; and besides you only have to give 10¢ or 20¢, and noone will criticise you for being mean.

Is this how you feel too? Well what action can we take? I suggest that the first thing we can do is to listen to this story. Jesus said:

"There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades

being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house; for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No Father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

True it is: We shouldn't have door knock appeals; we don't need raffles and walkathons and all the other gimmicks and stunts. Each month your generous financial gifts should go out to people in need, wherever they are, simply because they are fellow human beings, and because the Bible tells you to care for them. Of course, most of us have given up on the Bible long ago: that's our problem now, and it will be our chief and bitter regret for all eternity.

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