

"The Parable of the Tavern Tithe"

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"The Tavern Tithe" (A Parable)



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Situated in the outskirts of town there is a "friendly" local tavern known by the innoxious name, "Granny's Place." Some of the 'best people in town' frequent the place, and Granny is cognizant of her place in the community. After all, she worked hard to claim it! Her most notable project was the construction of two, rather large "dormitory" type buildings to the rear of the tavern situated on some three, beautifully shaded, acres of ground. Like "Miss Kitty" of "Gunsmoke" days, she has a real feeling for people and their needs. Granny saw that there were a lot of elderly women around town who were without a place to stay. They were the unwanted, and consequently uncared for, who are multiplying in all of our "Christian" communities. Granny compassionately gathered all of these poor, wretched, souls and gave them a haven of rest within the confines of the "dormitories" in the rear of her tavern. All of their needs were supplied within the premises.

As time went on, however, there was a greater demand for the poor, battered women than could be housing in the existing "dorms," and Granny could not afford to build another one on the current revenue of the tavern. After much thought and consideration, Granny, being ever compassionate for "her girls" decided to add another product to the list of beers, wines, and liquors which she amply supplies to quench the wayfarer's thirst. Granny added marijuana to her inventory, and discretely sold bags of "Mary Jane" for those of her patrons who desired such recreation!

The additional revenue from this new product enabled Granny to build another "dorm" for these poor, outcast women; but only a short respite was realized, because the demand seemed to continue to grow. Soon Granny needed another "dorm" for "her girls," as her compassion for them continued to grow also. Therefore, Granny took the only step available to her for increased revenue - she added prostitution to her product inventory. There was some vacant space upstairs over the tavern, and Granny had it turned into beautiful bedrooms, and lodged in them a bevy of young, beautiful, teenaged whores who were eager to satisfy every desire that her more "sporting" patrons demanded.

With this additional revenue Granny was able to add two more "dorms" under the beautiful shade trees in the back of the tavern. It took all of the revenue from the entire operation of the tavern to enable Granny to continue the care of "Granny's Girls", as they were known, who lived comfortably in the "Rest Haven" which Granny furnished them. This fact was known by the local law enforcement, and for this reason they turned their heads as far as Granny's Place was concerned!

Nothing is static, however, and after a period of time, there was a greater need for Granny's dorms than there was room. Literally, "there was no more room at the inn." The law of supply and demand worked well for the tavern, but not for the charitable end of the operation. The "Dorms" had been filled to capacity for almost a year during which time Granny had had to turn away countless numbers of battered women, and this caused her deep concern. Finally, she brought the problem to a number of her oldest customers, soliciting their suggestions, and help. They held several "Committee" meetings at the "Roundtable" on Sunday mornings when the barroom was closed. After a time a

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consensus of opinion was reached, and it was felt that since the needs of the elderly was really a problem of the community, perhaps a fund drive throughout the entire community would be appropriate. After all, it was thought, many of the outstanding people of the community were "regulars" at the tavern, and not only would they be contributors, but many of them could be counted on to work on the drive. A "catchy" name and slogan would be needed and, with a little more planning, the drive would commence in thirty days.

Some one came up with the "HAVE A HEART" campaign. After some discussion it was adopted, along with a campaign slogan of "GIVE TO GRANNY'S GIRLS." A campaign goal of \$250,000 was set, enough to double the capacity of the present "Dorms." River City, it was pointed out, was a typical American town of 25,000 reasonably happy souls. The local clergy boasted that they were "at least 90% Christian," composed, of course, of the usual percentages of Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, etc. Because of this fact, it was thought that the campaign goal could be reached in a two week concentrated drive.

The campaign was kicked off on "Good Friday" with the usual "Fifth Avenue" ad agency approach. "GIVE TO GRANNY'S GIRLS" banners stretched across the major thoroughfares, and collection receptacles with a picture of a battered woman provided obstacles on the streets and in the entryways of the local merchants' stores. Special collections were taken up in many of the local churches, and their pastors boasted at the first report luncheon as to the amount that the churches had given. (No one could remember when the last sermon had been preached against the tavern, or drinking, or drugs, or prostitution.) By the tenth day of the drive it was oversubscribed by \$50,000 and the local press heaped plaudit, after plaudit upon the "Big Hearted Citizens of River City," and especially Granny, whose heart was the biggest of all, and whose motives were "as pure as gold."

IF YOU ARE A "BORN AGAIN" CHRISTIAN, AND LIVE IN "RIVER CITY," AND ONE OF THESE SOLICITORS COMES TO YOUR DOOR FOR A DONATION TO THIS CAUSE... WOULD YOU GIVE? ____ Yes, ____ No. I TRUST THAT YOU WOULD NOT.... BECAUSE OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO HIS WORD, DOES NOT CONDONE SUCH GIVING.

THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE

Folks, in the preceding Parable, "The Tavern Tithe," represents the non-Christian Television industry in our country. Granny's Place, even though she did tremendous good with her money, it was by far, offset by the evil she spawned in order to receive the funds by which to "do good." Perhaps some good comes from the preaching and teaching which go on for a few hours a week on television, however, it is completely destroyed by the nine hours preceding it, and the ten hours following it on every network.

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Many of our churches will not even hold garage sales, etc., because they will not accept money which may perhaps have come from the gambling, liquor, or other illicit industries. Yet, they will contribute their church members' money to a television station for the purchase of a thirty-minute program on Sunday morning! By so doing, they are contributing to the entire programming of the station which includes rape, pillage, and plunder just as the contribution to Granny's "HAVE A HEART" campaign would have supported the dope, the booze, and the prostitution at the tavern.