

THE BEGGING KING

*From: "Stories, Parables and Fables of Life" of P. Ribes, s.j.
Published by Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.*

Intent of these Notes

- ✓ To move people to generosity.
- ✓ We shall receive what we give.
- ✓ When you give to God, give it all

Uses of these notes

- Personal reflection and prayer.*
- Talks and sermons.*
- Prayer sessions.*

The Story

I had gone a begging from door to door in the village path, when thy golden chariot appeared in the distance like a generous dream and I wondered who this king of all kings was;

My hopes rose high and I thought my evil days were at the end. And I stood waiting for alms to be given, unasked, and for wealth scattered on all the sides in the dust.

The Chariot stopped where I stood.

Thy glance fell on thou and me come down with a smile. I felt that the luck of life had come at last.

Then all of a sudden thou didst hold out thy right hand and say “What has thou to give to me?

Ah! What a kingly jest was it to open they palm to a beggar to beg! I was confused and stood undecided.

And then from my wallet I slowly took out the least grain of corn and gave it to thee.

But, how great my surprise when at the day's end, I emptied my bag on the floor to find a least little grain of gold among the poor heap:

I bitterly wept and wished that I had the heart to give thee my all.

POINTS FOR SHARING AND DISCUSSION.

1. What's the main lesson of Tagore's story?
2. What does the story tell us about our human heart?
3. What does it teach us about God's generosity?
4. In our needs, what do we expect from God?
5. What does God expect from us?
6. How much are we to give God?
7. How much has he given us

8. If we want God and people to be kind and generous towards us, what are we do first?

THOUGHTS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES: (For Prayer)

- Give, and it will be given to you
- It is better to give than to receive
- Freely you have received, now freely, you give
- God loves a cheerful giver.
- He who gives to the poor will lack nothing
- Give to others, and God will give you; you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into you hands, all that you can hold.
- The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you
- God is not outdone in generosity.

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

- You will harvest what you sow.
- Give till you feel the pinch.
- Give, not of your abundance, but of your penury.
- Things given are not lost, but saved!.
- Generosity brings prosperity and friends.
- If you want a bumper crop, scatter your seed generously.
- Do not bury your riches within the depths of your heart.
- Sharing brings joy. Hoarding misery
- In our world, there is enough wealth for everybody's need, not enough for everybody's greed.
- If you do not give, you have no right to ask.

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

Comment on it as an explanation and confirmation of Tagore's Parable
After that, recite it chorally or sign it.

Make me a channel of your peace
 Where there is hatred, let me bring your love
 Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
 And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek,
 So much to be consoled as to console
 To be understood as to understand
 To be loved as to love with all my soul. (*Refrain*)

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair, Lord, let me bring your hope
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light
And where there's sadness, comfort and joy. (*Refrain*)

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life. (*Refrain*)