

2 November 2018

“Celebrate God: Return God’s Gifts!”

Our Stewardship Education Series this year is titled “Celebrate God: Return God’s Gifts!” We celebrate our Loyalty Sunday—the first Sunday in December—just a mere four weeks away. Then we make an estimate of what we will give the church to do ministry in 2019. A difficult task is easier done when we know that we are not alone in the struggle. It is easy to give up if it is just me, but there is a synergistic flow of energy when it is us.

There was a man in a community who owned a little saw mill. He had one log truck with which he hauled in raw logs. One rainy day he was coming in over the graveled road with a heavy load. The truck slipped in the ditch. He walked a mile up the road to a house and asked the farmer if he would bring his tractor and pull his log truck out of the ditch.

The man said he did not have a tractor, but he had a mule, old Blue. The owner of the log truck said he doubted that a mule could do the job. The farmer said: “You don’t know my mule, Blue.” So, they brought old Blue to the log truck and hitched him to it. The man cracked his whip and said, “Come on Blue.” Blue pulled but the truck did not move. He cracked his whip again and said, “Come on Mac.”

The truck moved just an inch or two. He cracked his whip again and said, “Come on Maude,” and the truck came right out of the ditch. The log truck owner thanked the farmer, but asked him: “Why did you call that mule by three different names?”

“Well,” said the farmer, “you have to understand that Blue is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, your truck would still be in the ditch.”

When we think of the family, city, state, and nation as “ours,” and we all pull together, we can solve almost any problem. What if we included in “our” church God and Christ? What if we pulled our weight as if others depended on us?

**Come, Worship
Stay, Learn
Go, Serve**