

THE COLLECTION PLATE

Character #1 - Little Old Lady with Coin Purse: (character #1 receives the plate)

If I am not supposed to feel pressure, why do they have this beautiful brass plate? Should I put in an offering pledge of just a little or a lot? I should have decided last night. Well the church does have bills to pay. These are really comfortable seats. Come to think of it, we do have a lot of nice things here. A nice organ, stained glass windows, a new chancel, and what's this with the coffee, juice, and cookies every Sunday? Next thing you know they will have a McDonalds and a gas station! This stuff isn't cheap. I bet when you become a member they really put the pressure on you. This place must be rolling in dough! What will my measly couple of bucks do each week? How do I know where my money is going anyways? You can't be too careful these days especially at my age. If I use my money for things I need at least I know what it's going for. I am sure you will understand God (hold up the offering plate to God) if I take a pass this year.

*Pass the offering plate to the next person.

Character #2 - Well to do Businessman (*wear suit jacket, carry a checkbook*)

(Pull out a checkbook from your coat pocket when you get the plate)

Ah yes, the Pledge Card time of the year. What a wonderful time in the service. You get to participate in funding this great work of God. (*Write a check, put the check book back into your coat pocket*). A very, very large part. I amaze myself with my generosity. (*Look at check and smile*) If I can give one of these every week it would be such an example to others. Of course how can I be an example if they don't know what I am doing? I don't want to tell anyone what I give, that would be too obvious (*hold check up in the air*), of course if I don't fold my check or pledge card, then the people next to me could see them. Maybe I should just put them on the rim of the plate (*demonstrate*), then the whole row would be able to see it, and you know everybody would know about it before the day was over. Maybe I should just drop it on the floor (*drop the check at the feet of the next person to get the plate*) then they will see it and be inspired. If they don't get it back in the plate before it passes they will have to stand up and call out to the usher, "Oh sir there is a very large check from _____, and I am sure the church can't do without this ". Then Pastor will ask me to be the chair of the Finance Committee on the spot. What joy to be a humble tool in God's hands.

*Pass the offering plate to the next person.

Character #3 - (Young Lady with bill-fold)

Oh no! The offering plate! I just hate this time of the year. I bet everyone is watching me! I bet the couple behind me is watching to see how much I am putting in. (turn around) Stop staring at me. Oh, I am in the last row. Why am I so paranoid? What is the big deal about giving to the Lord? (Look up!) I know I should give more. I am trying Lord! What do you expect of me? Look at me I am riddled with guilt just because I didn't give anything last year during the pandemic. All right Lord, I will double my pledge! No, I will triple it! (Look up!) Oh will you please get off my back! (Put card in plate). Oh, not good enough! OK God, I give up, you caught me red handed. I didn't recycle during the pandemic. Here, just take my whole wallet (dump the wallet into the plate). Take my credit cards too! How about my rings and bracelet! (put rings and bracelet in plate). These should cover the night of my senior prom. Here take my shoes, and yes I did go! I even went 10 miles over the speed limit on my way to church! I promise to walk home barefoot on the gravel just to prove how sorry I am. There God is that enough? I hate this time of year! (Look at plate and shake your head)

*Pass the plate to the next person.

Character #4 - Older Retired Man

Well, here it is, a chance to say thanks. You know Lord this has been a good year. I have had enough food; every night I have gone to bed in a warm house; every morning I have had a hot shower. Well, except for last Thursday when the grandkid got up way too early (*smell armpit*). But all in all, I have had a lot of good things come my way this year; helping at the Soup Kitchen; the Retreat Center clean-up. Yes, I know I matter to you, but Lord you matter to me too. Just think 2 years ago I would have been in the office on Sunday morning just doing a little business. But here I am today, and now in a tangible way. I get to show you how much you mean in my life. This is for you Lord (*hold up the offering plate to the Lord*). Oops, I think I left my pledge card at home and my wallet is in the car. I wonder if my service time on the CROP WALK can count this year. Where is my wallet anyway?

#Hand the plate to the usher.