

APPROVING WORDS

An actor once told of a horrible nightmare he had in which he was telling funny stories and singing songs to a crowded audience – but no one clapped or laughed. “It was terrible,” he said. “Even at \$100,000 a week, such a situation would be hell on earth.”

One of the built-in needs of man is that of approval and appreciation. In the parable of the talents told by Jesus – a story of those charged with responsibility – we learn much about God’s appreciation for those who work faithfully in His vineyard. Note that He gives careful appreciation for the tasks we do. The songwriter captured this truth in the beautiful verse, *All the talents I have, I have laid at Thy feet. Thy approval shall be my reward.*

As in most relationships between God and man, we can use this principle in dealing with people. Words of kindness and appreciation can do much to make life easier and more palatable for others.

There is magic in a word of praise. When Lola and I moved to Cleveland, we met and became good friends with a veterinarian. His name was Dr. C. Z. Lockhart. He developed what many of his acquaintances called a ministry – and, indeed, it was – of writing and sending cards to even casual acquaintances, just expressing appreciation for their friendship and to note that he was praying for them. Many have been blessed by those small, but caring, acts. Lola and I were among them.

As you go about your work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home – today and in the new year stretching ahead – understand that you have God’s approval as you exercise stewardship of the talents He has given to you in serving His children.

And know that you have my appreciation, and all the leadership of Life Care, in the pursuit of this noble mission.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Matthew 25:21

--Beecher Hunter