

Burrow Scores for the Needy

Football fans know the name Joe Burrow. He led his team, the LSU Bengal Tigers, to last year's national championship in football. He also won the 2019 Heisman Trophy as the nation's most outstanding player.



At the ceremony in which he accepted the award, he used his moment in the spotlight to speak some words of encouragement to the kids back in his hometown of Athens, Ohio.

Athens, Ohio, is one of the poorest towns in the Appalachian region. Through tears, Burrow said, "Coming from southeast Ohio, it's a very impoverished area and the poverty rate is almost two times the national average. There's so many people there that don't have a lot, and I'm up here for all those kids in Athens and Athens County that go home to not a lot of food on the table, hungry after school."

Then he added, "You guys can be up here, too."

Within hours of Burrow's words, a man in Athens County named Will Drabold set up a fundraising site to raise money for the Athens County Food Pantry. He was counting on Joe Burrow's words of compassion to inspire others.

And he was right. Curious fans began searching for information on Athens County, Ohio. Within two days, generous folks around the country donated more than \$320,000 to the Athens County Food Pantry. All because they were moved by Burrow's compassion for needy children in his community.

The Athens County Food Pantry serves food to more than 5,000 households in the county each year. They provide 9,000 meals a month for less than 50 cents a meal.

Compassion was at the very core of Jesus' nature. It's the reason why He gave up His power and authority as part of the Godhead and took on human flesh and human weakness and walked among us. Jesus' compassion for us is what led Him to die for us on the cross. It was the only way to save us from our sins and restore us to God.

Compassion is also the reason that associates of Life Care and Century Park surrender their lives to the people they serve every day. Their love often transcends their own personal desires and comfort as they follow the teachings of our Lord.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive (Colossians 3:12-13 ESV).