

Giving That Costs

My second-grade teacher took segments of class time to read stories about Winnie-the-Pooh, a fictional, anthropomorphic bear created by A.A. Milne. I enjoyed the sessions very much.



Milne also wrote a seasonal piece entitled *A Hint for Next Christmas*. He tells of William, who went to a big Christmas party and was stunned to discover that everyone had brought gifts for everyone else, a courtesy he had completely missed. He gave some thought to this problem, and then went alone into the dining room while all the other people were in the parlor. There, in the dining room, the gifts were piled at each person's place at the table. Milne writes:

The top parcel said, "To John and Mary from Charles." William took out his fountain pen and added a couple of words to the inscription. It then read, "To John and Mary from Charles and William."

He moved on to the next place. "To Angela from Father," said the top parcel. "And William," wrote William. At his hostess' place, he hesitated a moment. The first present there was for "Darling Mother, from her loving children." It did not seem that "and William" was quite suitable. But his hostess was not to be deprived of William's kindly thought, so 20 seconds later, the handkerchiefs "from John and Mary and William" expressed all the nice things he was feeling for her.

William's effort was a nice try, but how pitiful!

We only truly give when it costs us something.

As we approach Christmas, we are reminded that our Heavenly Father gave something very precious to us: His only begotten Son.



And the Son was willing to give His life so that we may have an eternity in heaven with Him.

– Beecher Hunter