

MORE COINS IN THE HAT

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign that said: *I am blind, please help.*

By late in the morning, there were only a few coins in the hat.

A man came walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.



Soon, the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy.

That afternoon, the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were going.

The boy recognized his footsteps, and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning?" Assured by the stranger that he, indeed, was that man, the boy asked, "What did you write?"



The man answered, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said on the sign, but in a different way. I wrote: *Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it.*

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. The first sign, however, simply said the boy was blind. The revised sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind.



Should we be surprised that the changed sign was more effective?

While some people read the original sign and gave because they were concerned about the boy's disability (and that is laudable), others saw the new sign, felt sympathy for the boy's condition, but also were grateful for their own health, as well as that of their children, and gave accordingly.

(more)

When our focus shifts to gratitude, we are not only more inclined to remember our own blessings, but we become more inclined to bless others.

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered (Proverbs 11:24-25 ESV)

– Beecher Hunter