

## Pay for the Eggs

Charles Spurgeon, widely popular English preacher of the 19th Century, and his wife would sell, but refused to give away, the eggs their chickens laid. Even close relatives were told, "You may have them if you pay for them."

As a result, some people labeled the Spurgeons greedy and grasping.

They accepted the criticisms without defending themselves. It was only after Mrs. Spurgeon died that the full story was revealed: All the profits from the sale of eggs went to support two elderly widows. Because the Spurgeons were unwilling to let others know what they were doing, they endured the attacks in silence.

The story reinforces the truth that things are not always what they appear to be, and people are often wrongly judged because all the facts are not revealed. How easy it is for us to jump to conclusions when we may not know what we are talking about.

This practice of the Spurgeons also illustrates another principle: Good works, done in secret, bring their own reward. In a day when people and organizations rush to grab headlines or the spotlight for their charitable endeavors, such selflessness, privately done, is refreshing, indeed.

--Beecher Hunter