

The Minstrels' Best Show Ever

Minstrels were medieval European bards who performed songs with lyrics that told stories of distant places or of existing or imaginary historical events. In a far country lived a band of minstrels who traveled from town to town presenting their music to make a living.

They had not been doing well. Times were hard. There was little money for common folk to come to hear the minstrels, even though their fee was small.

Attendance had been falling off, so early one evening the group met to discuss their plight.



“I see no reason for opening tonight,” one said. “To make things even worse than they may have been, it is starting to snow. Who will venture out on a night like this?”

“I agree,” said another disheartened singer. “Last night we performed for just a handful. Fewer will come tonight. Why not give back their meager fees and cancel the concert? No one can expect us to go on when just a few are in the audience.”

“How can anyone do his best for a few?” a third singer spoke up. Then he turned to another sitting beside him. “What do you think?”

The man to whom he directed the question was older than the others. He looked straight at the troupe – his fellow singers – and said: “I know you are discouraged. I am, too. But we have a responsibility to those who might come. We will go on. And we will do the best job of which we are capable. It is not the fault of those who come that others do not. They should not be punished with less than the best we can give.”

Heartened by his words, the minstrels went ahead with their show. They never performed better.

When the show was over and the small audience had gone, the old man called his troupe to his side. In his hand was a note, handed to him by one of the members of the audience just before the doors closed behind him.

“Listen to this, my friends!”

Something was electrifying in the tone of his voice, and it made them turn to him in anticipation. Slowly, the old man read: “Thank you for a beautiful performance.”

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It was signed simply, *Your King*. The minstrels had unknowingly performed for royalty.

The lessons for us are obvious:

1. The responsibilities we've been given in Life Care and Century Park are serious and demanding. We owe our customers our best efforts, regardless of situations or distractions that might tempt us to do otherwise.
2. Beyond pleasing our patients, residents and families, we must strive daily to honor and delight our King – the One who commissioned us for the tasks before us and assigned us the gifts to fulfill them.

Let us always serve up our best.

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter