

The Spilled Casserole

Consider this scenario:

As the last couple arrives for a potluck dinner at the home of the host, their hot casserole dish slides off its tray and crashes to the floor in the entryway.

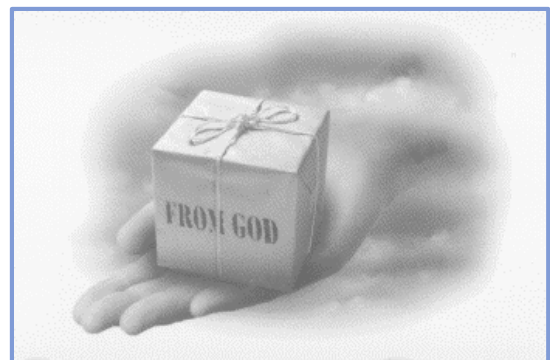
The sound of a crash and the accompanying groans bring the rest of the guests running to see what happened.

Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, tells the story in his book *Turning Points*, and describes how the rest of the guests instinctively take different courses of action:

- A person with the gift of mercy wades through the stroganoff to hug the tearful wife who dropped the dish.
- A person with the gift of leadership starts assigning various cleanup tasks.
- A person with the gift of teaching bites his tongue just before saying that a plastic dish with a sealed lid might have prevented the disaster.
- A person with the gift of giving volunteers to drive to a nearby deli and pick up more food.
- And a person with the gift of prophecy starts explaining the spiritual lesson inherent in the mess – but then stops when he gets “the look” from his wife!

Then Dr. Jeremiah adds: “God has so gifted the members of the body of Christ that each has a unique perspective and contributions to make. Whatever your spiritual gift from God is, the body suffers to the degree you don’t use it.”

The lesson is important for us in Life Care and Century Park. Every job in the centers we operate is important. And the talents our associates – diverse as these abilities may be – when pooled together in one place make possible the kind of service our residents need and deserve.



Remember: A gift given but unused is the same as a gift never given.

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter