

Open your hands

By Pastor Nora Mendyk

United Methodist Church, Grant

Dave Ramsey, Financial Mentor, talks about the difference between living life with fists closed tightly and living life with open hands. We can neither give nor receive with a closed fist. It is better to live with an open hand to be able to give and receive.

Another challenge in our lives is being able to distinguish between our wants and our needs. Living by our 'wants' promotes a gimme, gimme, gimme attitude that is never satisfied.

Satisfaction comes in being able to distinguish between our 'wants' and 'needs.' Living by our 'needs' gives us more resources to give to those who need. Author and pastor, Adam Hamilton, offers questions to ponder on what is enough for us in his book, *Enough*.

The rich young ruler whom Jesus loved could not distinguish between his 'wants' and 'needs'. It appears every possession of his was a need. He sadly could not part with anything. "Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor; and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions." Mark 10: 21, 22

The rich young ruler had a closed fist. In spite of all the things he had, he lacked one thing. Jesus, in His love for him, offered a way to discover the joy of giving. The offer was refused.

Bible study teacher, Beth Moore, urges us to pray that the Lord change our 'wants' to be the same as His 'wants'. "Lord, change my 'want to' !

Living by our 'needs' gives us more resources to give to those who need.

Imagine if we all lived with open hands. Imagine what we could accomplish in giving to God's kingdom as we open our hearts, our minds and our hands. Together, we can make a difference.