

Living Life with Purpose

Chaplain's Corner

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I've been reading a book by Dr. Nicholas Comninellis, a missionary doctor, titled *Five Bags of Gold*. The book focuses upon the parable of the talents given to us in the Bible. I was reminded that each of us will give an account of our lives when judgment day comes. We will not have to give an account of things we didn't have, but only of those things which we do have.

What resources do you have that could be used to support the VFW and our community at large? Dr C's gold bags represent resources which we have that can be used for the good of our VFW posts. Those five bags of gold are represented by 5 P's; 1) Position, 2) Possessions, 3) Projects, 4) Pleasures, and 5) People.

Those five categories, when combined with our own skills and talents, can be valuable to our society at large if they are put to work. What memories surface in your own mind about people or events which helped shape you in a positive way? Of course, there are some events and/or experiences which have pushed us away like two magnets with the same magnetic pole.

I was reminded of my baseball playing days as a thirteen-year-old. One of my coaches was a barber. One of his pleasures was baseball. He used his position as a coach to motivate us to perform better and to improve our baseball skills. He would give us free haircuts for a variety of on-field activities. If we hit a homerun, we could expect a haircut. If we made an outstanding play, a free haircut followed. Because it's been more than sixty years ago, I can't remember the variety of ways he found to reward all of his players. What I do remember is that at the end of the baseball season, my friend Johnny and I had lots of haircuts left over. That was a time when The Beatles and long hair were the rage.

The point is, he used his position as a coach, his skills as a barber (his possession), in a sport he enjoyed (pleasures), to impact young people. I doubt he looked at us as a project, but looking back, his finished work had an impact on many of us. I may have forgotten about those days, but what he did for us back then helped shape me into the person which I am today.

As veterans, we make a pledge to support our country and to help those in need. Are you helping create new memories? When you die, what will people remember and say about you? "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)