

Making God a Beggar.

"I'm trying to beg a little money for my preacher to-day," exclaimed the steward in apologetic tones; his manner of asking, perhaps, saying almost as plainly as words could, "And I'm half ashamed of my errand."

"I was appointed to beg some money for the Sunday School," says the smiling young lady collector, as subscription-paper in hand, she sweeps down upon her victim.

"I am going to beg some money to-day for missionary purposes," announced the pastor to his congregation, who, some way, receive the impression that he very much dislikes doing such a thing, and would be surprised at a liberal contribution. And so we hear almost every Sunday, and week-day too, pastors *begging*, stewards *begging*, and young lady collectors *begging*.

The obnoxious words are dinged on in the people's ear, in connection with church finances, until it is no wonder if they do begin to believe that the church has no claim upon them for a support that they are morally bound to honor, but is a public pauper, to be neglected, and even spurned if they happen to be in bad humor.

Begging for what, my friends? For the church. Whose church? Why Christ's, of course. Ah, yes; you are degrading this divine institution, of which Jesus Christ is the head, to the level - yes, below the level - of human institutions that are dependent upon charity. You are reversing the order of things, by which God is proprietor of all things, and make Him assume a servile attitude, and actually beg by proxy, through you, for a few paltry dimes or dollars, of those who really owe to Him, and have solemnly promised Him to hold subject to his commands all they possess. The word has no right to a place in our church vocabulary. It is a wretched usurper, and the sooner it is ousted the better. Now, fellow-pastors, brother stewards, sister collectors, one and all, for the sake of decency and truth, and that God may be honored, His creatures taught their obligations, and His cause prospered, let us never more use in this connection the lying word "beg." - *Sunday Magazine*.

Ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in passing, Only a signal shown and a distant voice in the darkness; So on the ocean of the life we pass and speak one another. Only a look and a voice, then darkness again and silence.

Henry W. Longfellow.

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