

Before his crucifixion, Jesus gave us a new commandment – to love others as he loves us, with all of ourselves, sacrificially. That can be hard to do.

Too often our faith has become “Jesus and me.” The Bible never said that. Rather, God tells us that we are blessed to be a blessing. We are equipped and gifted in order to minister to others, to serve the kingdom of God. We do not work alone and we cannot claim credit for what we have or what we do. Whenever I am tempted, I remember this story and it makes me smile and remember that I serve a risen Savior who is in the world today and who works with me and through me.

A talented organist, in the days before motor-driven or electric organs, gave a very magnificent concert in which the big pipes sent forth glorious, thunderous tones. After people finished congratulating him, the little boy who had worked with all his might at the bellows remarked, “We did pretty well, don’t you think?”

The organist scornfully replied, “And what did you do?” He gave the boy no credit at all.

A month later, during another concert, the organist came to a stormy passage that required all the wind of which the bellows were capable. Suddenly the organ began to fade away. The organist signaled for more wind.

Instead, the little lad pulled aside the curtain and said, “Is it I or is it we?”

None of our accomplishments were solo acts. Have you thanked someone for his or her contribution today? Have you thanked your family for their love and support? Have you thanked Jesus for his sacrifice? Have you gone beyond words and thanked him by showing your gratitude in your life?