



December 13, 2017

WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS?

"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob."

So says Ebenezer Scrooge to the ghost of his old partner, Jacob Marley, and it is Marley's answer that points with clarity to the good news of Christmas. Marley's ghost is a lamentable character. Marley's ghost suffers so much from regret and sorrow that even Scrooge, whose emotions are well buried, begins to feel sorry for him. In an effort to steer the conversation back to a positive note, Scrooge says "But you were always a good man of business, Jacob."

"'Business!' cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. 'Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!'"

I do not believe in ghosts who suffer for the regrets and failures of their lifetime, for I believe that we all meet with the healing grace of God. But I do believe in a story that speaks the truth. As Marley said, we have been created for the business of benevolence, forbearance, mercy, and charity, which is another name for love. Maybe it is because we so often forget what it means to be human that God became human to remind us of our true business.

Looking around the church this week, I see love in action as Christmas gifts are delivered to families, hospitality is given to families needing temporary lodging, free music concerts are offered, and a community goes about the business of love for our neighbors.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

Senior Minister