

Most people who know me know that the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" is one of my favorites. It is the story of a man who gets helped into a bit of trouble by a competitor, and begins to feel like it would have been better if he had never been born. The man's name was George Bailey, and throughout his life he had worked to do good in his community. He thought that it was all for nothing, but the point of the movie was to show him how bad things would have been if he had indeed never been born.

He wanted to kill himself because his life insurance policy would solve his financial problem, but even that went bad when he ended up saving someone else. In this story, the one saved turned out to be an angel that had been sent to minister to him. The angel was able to make him see what the world would be like without him, and it made a tremendous difference in his attitude. But the interesting thing is that the angel did not solve the problem George had that had so demoralized him.

The greatest scene in the movie is at the end, where the whole town turned out to help him when they heard that he was in trouble. They flocked to him and gave to him of themselves because of the difference he had made in their lives. He had done so much for the community that he was not even really aware of it all. This is such an emotional and uplifting moment that I can't help but get all choked up. This represents the meaning of true Goodness to me.

But then I think about when Christ was crucified; there was no groundswell of support from those He had helped. Christ was so much greater than any man, but there was no overwhelming show of love by people who mobbed the area to save Him. There were only a few hesitant people who wanted to see what was happening, but were afraid to be associated with Him lest they be caught as well. Christ was taken outside the city and hung on a cross, and almost no one was there to help Him. He died feeling forsaken even by God. What a contrast!

If we understand the whole situation, then we know that this was the way it was meant to be. Having a crowd riot at Christ's crucifixion would not have helped any, for Christ had to die and be resurrected so that we would all have the chance for eternity with God. The support was supposed to develop later.

And so it did. Think of the millions upon millions of followers that now support him. Think of this overwhelming response as those who love Christ gather around His table to fellowship with Him. Christ would rather have us come now! Now is the time to come to him and honor Him with your support.

In the movie "It's a Wonderful Life", each of the people came in to show what a difference George had made in their lives. As we come to the communion table, that is what we are telling Jesus, too. We too must pledge to give of ourselves in thanksgiving because of the difference He made in our lives.