

The Vine Committee

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JCKK children visit
Dialect Wednesday
Cell Group Meeting.



**Brother
Martin
Writes**

I Don't Understand Rationale why Individuals can Accept Noxious Smell. I was on the bus not too long ago and the bus captain stopped the bus and came among the passengers accusing us of carrying durians. Seems like hotels, aeroplanes and buses do not allow durians on board. I can totally understand.



Looks like the king of fruits is rejected by the authorities but well accepted by the people. An analogy here with the King of kings being rejected by the Jewish leaders but well loved by the masses.

Not everyone dislike durians. As you can read further on, some will travel the distance to eat this fruit.

Next, when we consider smart, we must consider responsibility and honesty. At most interviews, the HR can only look at the degrees and certificates and even then there are fake degrees and certificates. Apparently, you can hire a smart person who can turn out to be a very smart thief but that is the limitation of a society that looks at a person's qualifications instead of his character.

There are a lot of smart people who use their wiles for the wrong purposes. You have read about Fake Eggs, Fake Rice, Cardboard Buns and lots of other foods which are not only genetically modified but fake. Read all about other smart people who create ways to destroy the world in one of the articles further on.

Finally, recently a blogger got married in an allegedly highly sponsored wedding celebration at a six-star hotel. This caused a mini-controversy as some of her guests felt they should not give her a big ang-pow (cash gift) because her costs were mostly covered by the companies sponsoring her wedding. What do you think?

What does the ang-pow represent? A gift to your friend for her wedding or a loan to help her settle her bills. Some customs are notoriously famous for recording the amount of the ang-pow so that the same amount is returned when your turn comes around. In the West, guests give gifts, eg. wine glasses, cutlery sets, etc and thus there is no mentality of helping to pay for the wedding. Among my colleagues, when an invitation is given, they will

quickly check the internet for the cost of a table at the particular restaurant/hotel where the function is to be held and just give an ang-pow of a corresponding amount. What would you do?

There are a few possibilities. One, you just give according to your standard rate, regardless of the venue of the function. At first sight, this sounds like a very good choice. However, if the function is held in a cheaper restaurant, would you still maintain the same standard rate? Two, you give according to the closeness of the relationship, ie you give more to the ones who are closer related to you and less to others. Are you guided by the cost of a table at the venue of the function? Three, you give according to the cost of a table at the location of the wedding, helping the newly weds to settle the bills. Finally, you don't give at all because they invited you and they should be honored that you turned up for their wedding celebration.

You might pull me aside and ask me what does all these mean. Well, it is related to giving in church. Notice that the offering is after the sermon. So do you give more if the sermon is good and less if the sermon is boring? Do you give to God or to the church? Some churches are already so well off financially that people feel they do not need any more money. Perhaps you consider yourself doing your friend a favour by following him to church, so he should pay you and feed you instead of the other way around.

God does not need your money but he wants you to be closer related to Him. So if you are closer related then you should give more. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also* (Matthew 6:21). Those who are further from Him may not feel the desire to give more but to ask for more.

Romans 12:8 (see next article) lists giving (*contributing to the needs of others*) as a spiritual gift. How many of us actually ask to have this gift? Most of us prefer to have the other gifts, leadership, encouragement, tongues, etc. In my 64 years, I don't remember anyone asking for the gift of giving. I guess this is one gift that the Holy Spirit must give to you without you asking for it.

Once you have the gift of giving, all your pains and worries will be gone. You will not have heart pain when you give to the church. You will not worry if there is a delay in getting back your interest-free loan.

"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" (Romans 11:35) can be simply put, God is no man's debtor.

Martin Cheah