

## Altapass Allegories

by

A Church Member

Have you ever heard these following words spoken seriously? I have and I still haven't recovered.

THE SCENE: A teenage boy waiting in line with two adult ladies, one of which was his mother. When asked by his mother to do something, the boy retorted, "What's in it for me?" It was clear by the expression on his face he was not teasing. The mother smiled at the other lady and said, "Lately, he believes he should be paid for everything he does." Her companion tried to make her feel better by saying maybe he would grow out of it. Rather than be told it was none of my business, I bit my tongue and walked away. My tongue still hurts.

When I relayed the incident to one of my children, my child laughingly said, "I know what would have been in it for me and it would have been swift and sure." Later, I began to think about what is in store for this child. My heart breaks. What heartache, frustration, and failure this child will face!

Then I began to ponder it another way. Surely as children of God we don't ever take this attitude, either silently or verbally, do we? Do we expect to be rewarded instantly for every service we do in obedience to Jesus. What about church attendance? Is it an act of love or just something we do from habit? What about our prayer life? Do we look on prayer as being sweet communion with Someone who loves us so much or is it just time to make a list of "I want"? When we read God's word do we hurry through or take time to digest what we're reading? Just remember, the Bible is God's love letter to us. Do I really fulfill Jesus' commandment to "love thy neighbor"? Loving others goes beyond giving bread to the hungry. To truly listen and pay attention to someone who is struggling can do more than just provide physical relief.

The next time I'm asked to do something for anyone that would be a blessing, let me never be guilty of asking, "What's in it for me?" How about you?

