



Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

OCTOBER 23, 2021

Brenton Jackson put God First

Brenton Jackson decided to put God first in his life. What can we learn from his story today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Brenton was born in New Zealand to a loving Adventist family. He loved Jesus and understood how much God loved him. However, when he was 13 years old, his world started to collapse. His parents divorced.

This affected his life so profoundly that he left the church and lived for many years without any connection with Christianity. But his life took another turn when he found himself jobless, on the brink of homelessness, and with nothing left but \$200 to his name. "How did this happen?" he asked himself repeatedly.

But, at his lowest moment, he remembered the love of God he experienced as a child. He remembered the sacrifice his parents made in putting God first with everything they earned. Brenton realized they never lacked anything at home, so he made a decision that would transform his life.

Entrusting his future to God, Brenton donated his

\$200 to a local Adventist Church. Like the widow in biblical times, Jesus watched as Brenton gave Him everything he had. What happened next was nothing short of a miracle.

Everything Brenton needed was provided . . . and it is still provided today. Brenton is a fully devoted disciple, always putting God first in his life. He is thankful that everything he has comes from God.

Ellen White reminded us: "The Lord does not need our offerings. We cannot enrich Him by our gifts. Says the psalmist: 'All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.' Yet God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God. He has provided no other" (Counsels on Stewardship, page 18).

Brenton put God first throughout his adult life. His determination inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.