

Essay from the bold pastor
#85 -Fuss over burgers-

A news shook up the nation on May 6th. Three young women who had been locked up for years inside a residence in Cleveland, Ohio, got rescued. While we were happy to learn that those women finally made it home, the fear of such merciless act left us speechless.

The event started when Charles Ramsey, a Cleveland resident, heard loud knocking on a door from outside of his house. It was Amanda Berry, one of the victims, banging on the door for her life. Ramsey immediately rushed to the door and broke it open, which led to the rescue. It just so happens that Ramsey was eating a Big Mac when he heard the noise, and he ran to the rescue carrying the half-eaten burger. Upon learning this fact, many posted comments on various SNS, claiming that MacDonald should reward Ramsey for advertising their product although it was unintentional. In response to this demand, the mega-corporate agreed to offer him free food for an entire year and donated \$10,000 to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Moreover, the restaurant where Ramsey works as a dishwasher started selling "Ramsey Burger" in honor of his heroism, and other restaurants all over Cleveland tried to follow the fads. Some even offered the hero free burgers for life in exchange for the rights to use his name in their menus.

Ramsey's virtuous act got blown out of proportion and led to a stupid craze. Aggravated by this occurrence, he released a statement refusing the restaurants' offer for free burgers as well as asking them to do something to help the victims instead. This story reminded me of the event in which Madonna once asked her fans all over the world to donate baby clothes to the poor instead of sending them to her after her baby was born as well as "Pray for Japan" movement after the devastating earthquake in Japan.

" So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men."
Matthew 6:2, NIV

As Jesus Christ warns in this verse, good deeds should come from the desire to help the people in need and therefore it is a shame when someone takes advantage of those acts for their self-satisfaction or benefits. Unfortunately, true merciful deeds can only be done through the faith in Jesus who sacrificed himself on the cross for us.

6-21-2013

