

Scripture Reading: John 13:31-35

*Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.*

When I was a banker traveling the country to gather more business for my company, I was indifferent to anything but that goal: call on potential customers, buy them dinner, regale them with stories about my wild days at the University of Georgia, ask about their families, and return to the bank after each trip with new corporate loan customers.

I was easily distracted by this almost desperate grasp for success. As I reflected on considering this my life's primary objective, I eased down from this high and found as my personal relationships deepened, my career became second, while my love for others soared in importance. I gave more love and thus received more in return. My family, friends, acquaintances, and corporate customers were all children of God like me, and by sharing my appreciation and love for them, I reflected God's love for us all. That was my true success.

*Prayer:* Lord, please shepherd us through the maze of Life's choices so we understand the value of both giving and receiving love as we connect with others in this world.

-Submitted by Sherry Minnich, in memory of Bill Minnich for the Eighteenth Reading of Lent.