

# Hatch Patch Creations

*From Our Home To Yours*

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## Tithes and Offerings for Clara Family Home Evening Packet



### Contents:

Story, Picture Sheets, Activity,  
Scripture, Treat Recipe

\$5.00

# Tithes and Offerings for Clara Family Home Evening Packet

## **Home Evening Outline**

- Opening Prayer
- Opening Song
- Scripture

- Story
- Game
- Closing Song
- Closing Prayer
- Refreshments

**Suggested Songs:** "I Want to Give the Lord My Tenth", pg. 150 (Childrens)

"I'm Glad to Pay a Tithing", pg. 150 (Childrens)

"Because I Have Been Given Much", pg. 219 (Hymn)

**Scriptures:** D&C 97:11-12, D&C 119:4, Matthew 25:40

**Story:** Color graphics with markers, colored pencils, chalks, etc. Use flannel, or laminate and cut out and place magnets on back of graphics, etc.

**Game: Fishing - Preparation:** Cut out the fish and starfish. On the back side of the fish, write different dollar amounts with a broad tipped marker that are easy to read. For example: 10 , 30 , 40 , 60 , \$1.00, etc. Increments of 10 are easier for smaller children to try and figure out. If you have older children whose math skills are more advanced you can use dollar amounts such as, \$1.35 , 55 , 67 , \$2.49, etc. After writing the dollar amounts on the back of the fish, laminate them. Glue paper clips to the front sides of all the fish. Then, take a dowel, approximately 1 1/2 to 2 feet long. Attach a string to one end of the dowel. At the opposite end of the string, attach a strong magnet.

**Play:** Place all the fish on the floor, top side up. Divide all of the family members into two teams. Make sure that an adult is on each team. Start with the youngest member of the family. Allow the child to take the fishing pole and catch a fish. Once a fish has been caught, play goes to the other team. Play alternates back and forth until all of the fish have been caught. Once all of the fish have been caught, help the children to add up the dollar amounts on the back sides of the fish. Once you have figured out a total, help the children figure out how much tithe should be paid on that amount. It would be helpful, if you have actual coins available that equal the amount totaled from all of your fish. A winner can be determined by the team that ends up with the larger dollar amount. If time permits, play another round.

## Krispy Butterscotch Tithing Treats

### **Ingredients:**

- 1 small package of butterscotch chips
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 2 cups rice krispies

Melt chips and peanut butter in a double boiler or in a microwave. Add rice krispies and stir gently. Drop by spoonfuls on wax paper and allow to set or spread mixture into an oblong cake pan and allow to set. Cut into squares.

# Tithes and Offerings for Clara

Bobby liked walking to school every day. There were so many exciting things to look at and wonder about! With the school being only three blocks from his home, Bobby could make it there in less than ten minutes.

All the second graders at Bobby's school would gather on the grounds every morning to play and talk about what had happened the night before. It was a good time for all the children to relax before the long day ahead.

Every morning at about 8:30, a withered old lady would pass by the school yard, carrying several bags of different shapes and sizes. She would scan the sidewalks for anything that had been left by one of the children or a passerby and place it carefully in one of the bags. Most disturbing to the children, though, was the fact that she would casually stop by the garbage cans that stood at the end of the fence. Her wrinkled hands would sift through the cans, papers, food, and stuff that had been thrown out the night before. Sometimes, she would even pull something from the can and pop it into her mouth. Some of the children would laugh and poke fun at her. Bobby felt so sorry for her. Sometimes he would catch himself thinking about her throughout the day.

It was Monday night and Dad called all the children together for Family Home Evening. Bobby scowled at the idea of having to stop playing with his friends to come and be with his brother and sister. "What is it going to be tonight?" Bobby wondered. He hoped that Mother would hurry through the lesson so they could get on with the treats.

With the prayer and family announcements over, Mother began the lesson.

"The lesson tonight is on tithes and offerings. You children all know that we pay 10% of our annual increase to the Lord. But I want to tell you tonight why we pay that money."

"The tithing we pay is a voluntary contribution that funds the activities of the church, such as the building of temples and churches, maintenance of meeting houses and other church facilities, partial support of missionaries, and welfare programs. Tithing is what keeps the church going. It is very important. Even more important is the fact that many Bible prophets preached the law of tithing. Jacob covenanted with the Lord to pay his tithing and it was included as part of the Law of Moses. Malachi preached about the seriousness of tithing when he said: 'Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me . . . in tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed . . . for ye have robbed me . . . Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me . . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.' " (Mal. 3:8-10)

Mother continued. "As part of the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Joseph Smith included the law of tithing as spoken to him by God. I know that we are blessed greatly when we pay our tithing."

"Now, who can tell me what a fast offering is and why we pay it?" Bobby thought for a moment. Fast offerings were something he had heard of before, but he really didn't know what it was. Finally, Miranda spoke up and explained that fast offerings were a donation to the church to help the poor and needy.

"Yes, Miranda," Mother exclaimed. "Very good. On Fast Sunday we use the money we would have spent for two meals for our family to give to the fast offering fund. That money is used to help people who are less fortunate than we are. Sometimes, food and blankets are sent to those countries that have suffered earthquakes, tornados or hurricanes. The church does many wonderful things with this money."

Mother continued with the lesson, but Bobby didn't hear much of it. His mind had wandered to the school ground where he had watched the "bag lady," as they called her, search for anything that would sustain her and get her through to the next day. Bobby's heart hurt. He looked around the warm living room where the family was seated, the soft lamp light glowing and the refreshments at the end of the table. "How lucky we are," he thought.

Bobby couldn't wait to go to school the next day.

He thought the morning would never come, but it did. Bobby rushed through his breakfast so he could get to school early. Instead of his usual slow steps to the playground, Bobby ran most of the way, his book bag riding sloppily on his back. When he reached his destination, he stopped to catch his breath and wait.

The school yard began filling up with the students and the rings of laughter could be heard for blocks away. But Bobby didn't feel like playing this morning. He was anxious for the "bag lady" to come by.

Time dragged for Bobby, but finally, here she came, her worn clothing wrapped tightly around her to guard her from the light breeze that was blowing. She looked haggard and tired, but Bobby's heart raced as he ran toward her.

"Please, lady, could I talk to you?" he yelled.

The "bag lady" slowly turned to look at Bobby. Fear was evident in her lined face as she immediately went back to the task of searching the streets and gutters.

"Lady, please wait. I want to help you," Bobby called. This time, the old woman stopped.

Bobby rushed to her side and almost couldn't get the words out of his mouth because he was so excited. He explained how his church collected funds just to help her and that he could arrange for her to get the food and clothing she needed so badly. He watched as a gentle smile slowly arched its way onto her deeply etched face. A ray of light beamed from her weathered eyes and a tear found its way onto her leathery cheeks. Bobby fought back his own tears as something wonderful happened on the playground that day.

They talked for what seemed like hours, until the school bell rang, and then Bobby hesitantly left her there. But something had changed inside Bobby as he headed for the school door. He had made a friend. Her name was Clara and she had been a "bag lady" for five years, wandering from place to place, sleeping under bridges or in empty train cars.

When the final school bell rang, Bobby jumped from his desk and raced home. He grabbed his bulging piggy bank and ran back out the door. It was only a few blocks to the bishop's house where he explained about Clara. The bishop wrote it all down. Then Bobby emptied his piggy bank, giving instructions to the bishop that 10% was for tithing and that all of the rest was to go to fast offerings. Then the bishop got a tear in his eye.

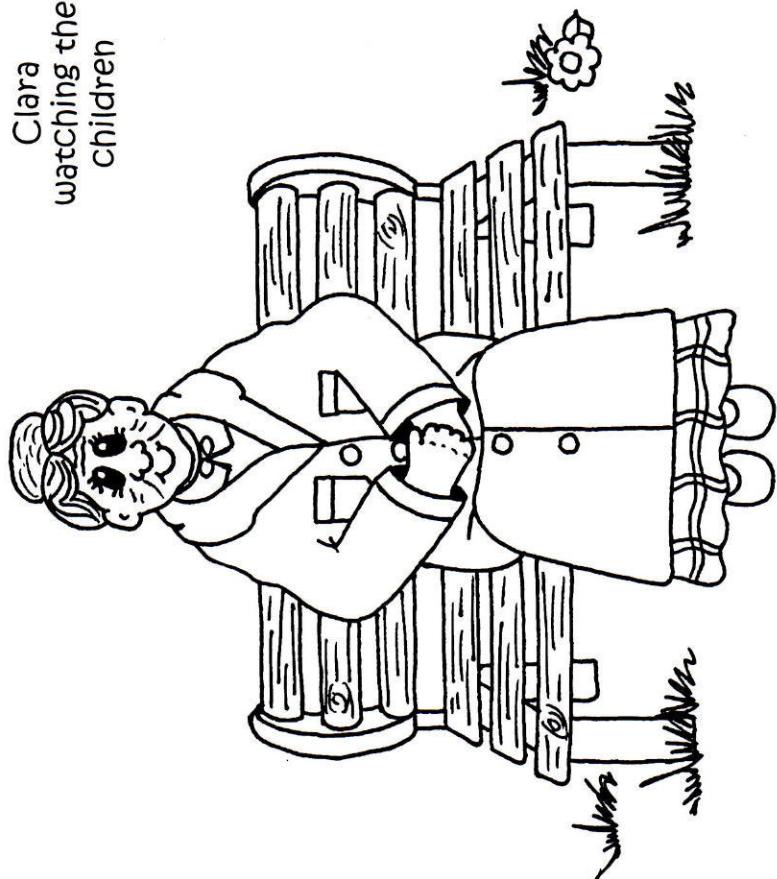
In the coming weeks, Bobby watched as Clara came with her bags. Soon, she was wearing a new coat and she had warm gloves and a warm hat to wear. As the days passed, Clara stopped searching through the garbage cans, and her hair was combed and pulled back in a bun. After a few weeks, she came without the bags, just to sit on the bench outside the fence and watch as the children laughed and played. Then she was gone.

The little heart inside Bobby's chest swelled for many months after meeting Clara. It wasn't because he thought he was wonderful, but because he knew that someone had been helped because of what we are asked to give to our church. "Isn't the church wonderful?" he said to himself. He vowed that he would always pay his tithing and he would always pay a generous fast offering, too.

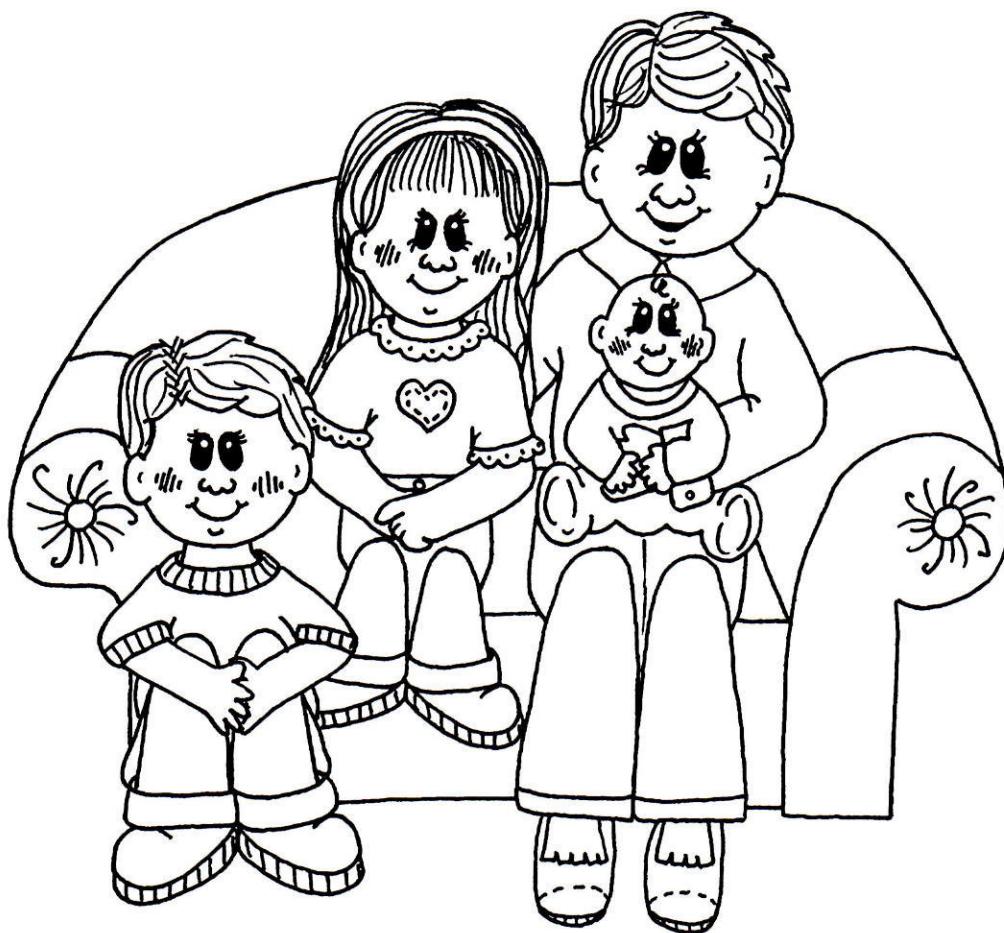
## **DISCUSSION**

- Why do we pay our tithing and how much are we instructed to contribute?
- For what is our tithing money used?
- What is a fast offering and how much should we pay?
- Can we pay more?

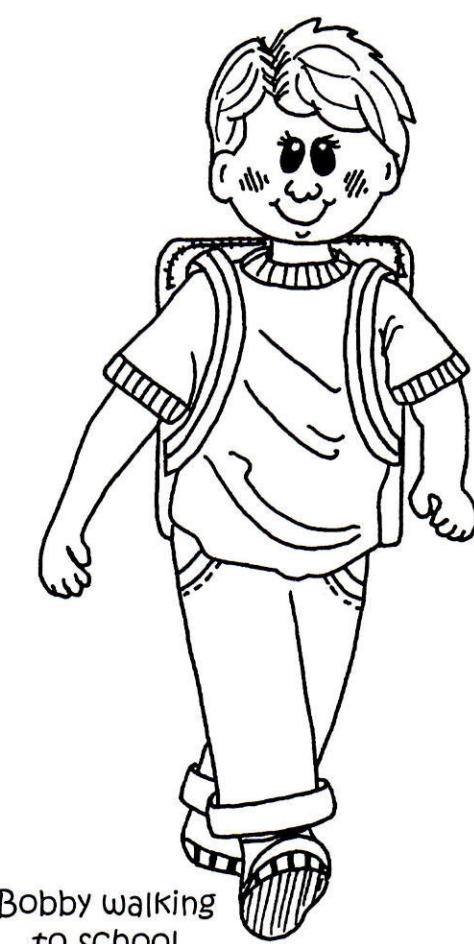
Clara  
watching the  
children



Clara searching  
through cans



Family Home Evening

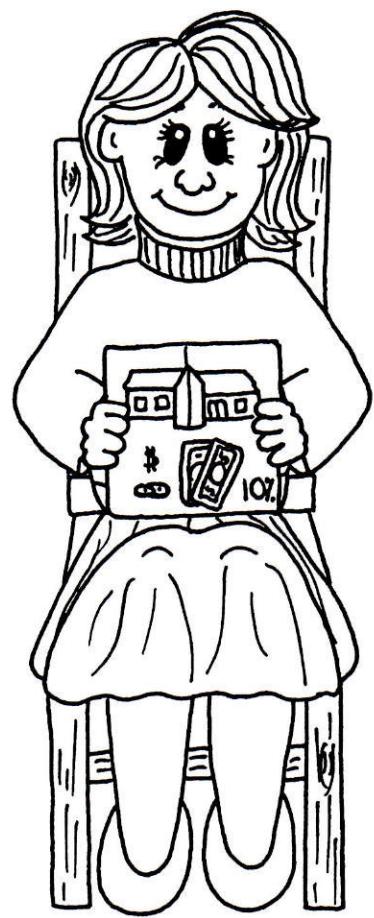


Bobby walking  
to school

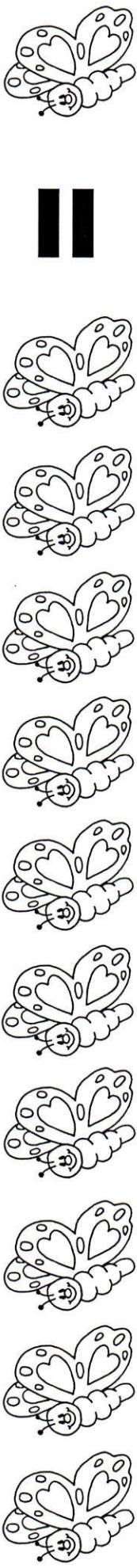
Clara +  
her bags



Mother teaching  
the family home  
lesson



Tithing is one-tenth of our annual increase



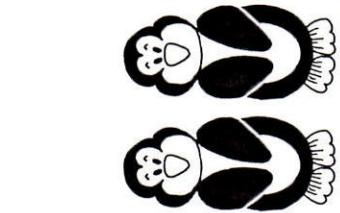
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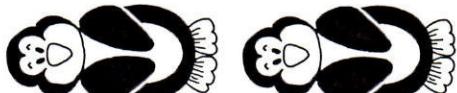
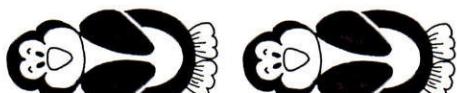
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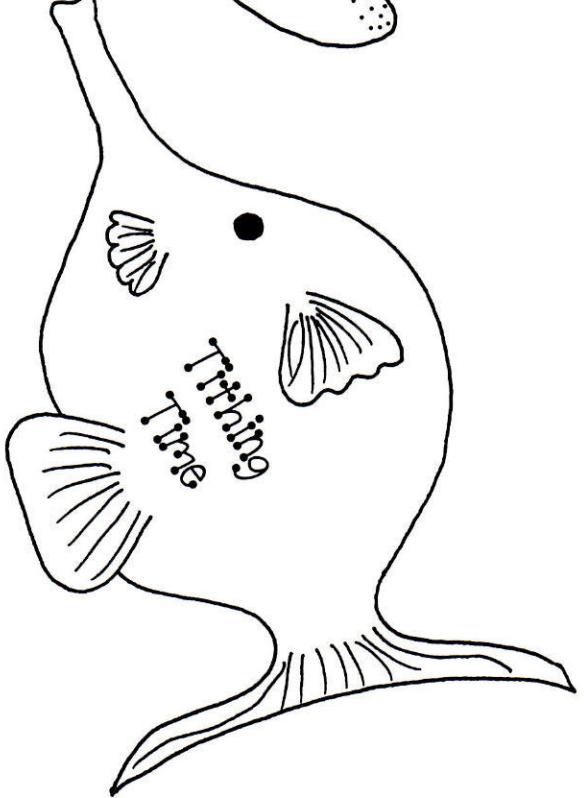
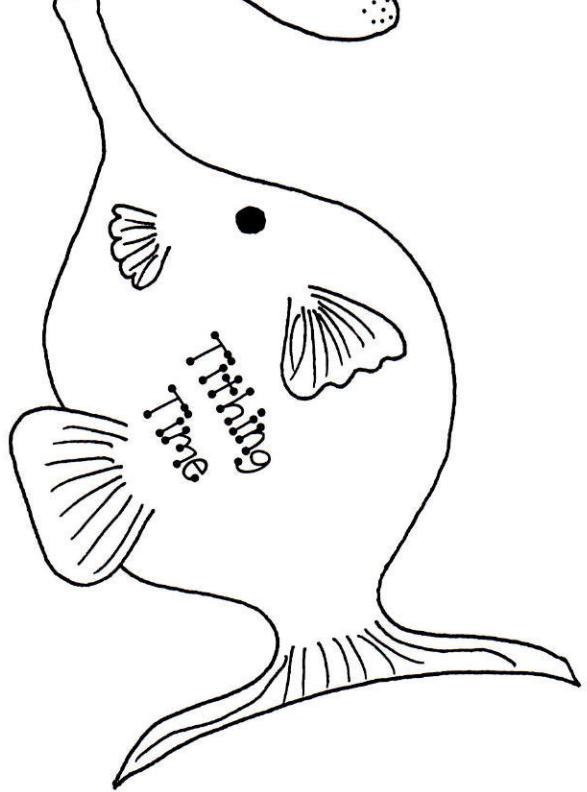
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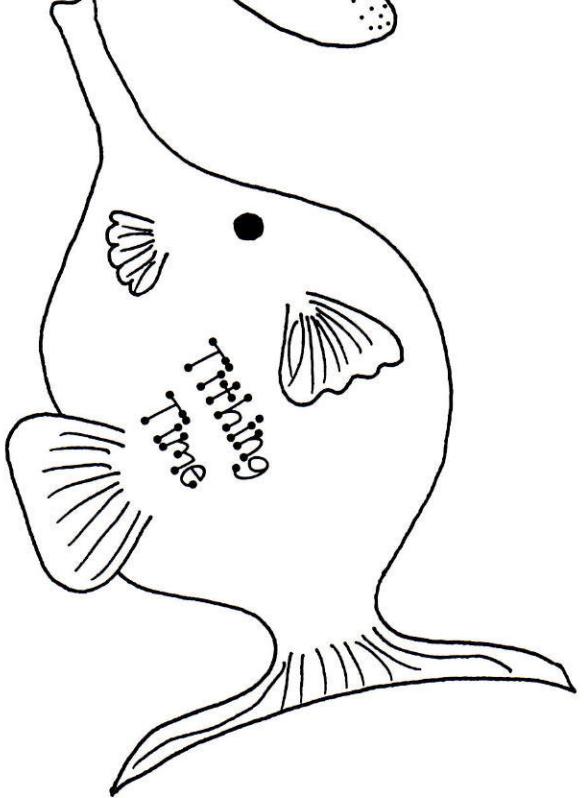
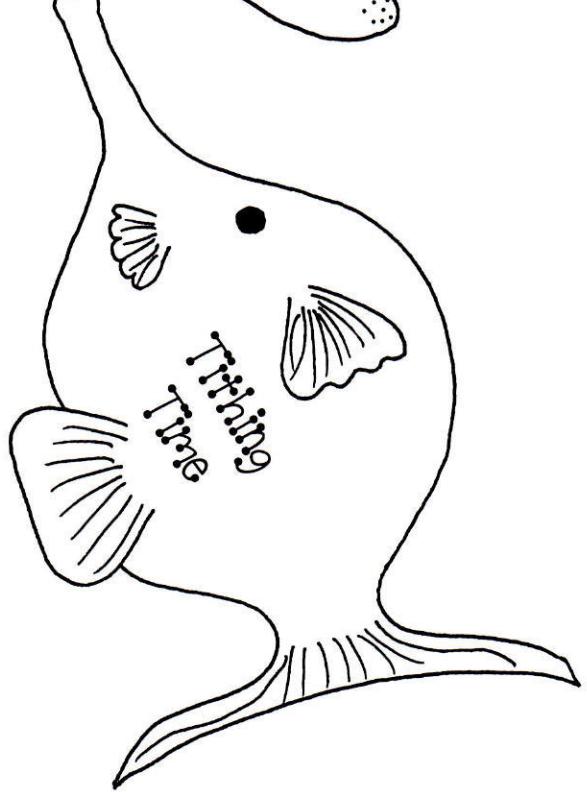
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*“And after that, those who have thus been tithed shall pay one-tenth of all their interest annually; and this shall be a standing law unto them forever, for my holy priesthood, saith the Lord.”*

**D&C 119:4**

Matthew 25:40

“Verily I say unto you,  
Inasmuch as ye have  
done it unto one of the  
least of these my  
brethren, ye have  
done it unto me.”

