

One day the tribe was attacked by a hostile group of settlers. They found themselves with their backs against the river. They were greatly outnumbered and their only chance for escape was to somehow cross the rushing river. They huddled together and **those who were physically strong** picked up the weak and wounded and put them on their shoulders. The little children, the sick, the old and infirmed, those who were ill or wounded, were carried on the backs of those **who were strongest**. By faith, they waded out into the river and much to their surprise, they discovered that the weight on their shoulders **actually helped them to keep their footing** and to make it safely across the river.

Yes, using our money and wealth to help those who are weak and needy allows us to keep our proper footing as well. That is in the spirit of the highest tradition of Christian compassion and concern. It is what our faith commitment is all about.

We exist in order to reach out to anyone who needs shelter and a friend and a helping hand. By being a servant, we save the lives of others--and our own. Reach out and touch a life, the life you touch will be the King of Kings. Jesus took a towel and a basin.

James never forgot that story. He became a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen and Amen.