

## The Founder of the Feast

One of the all time favorite Christmas stories is *The Christmas Carol*. We all can relate to many of the characters in the film. We can know what it is like to be poor and your boss is making money hand over foot. We also know what it is like to have a family member who only cares for himself/herself. We can even relate to Ebenezer Scrooge in his transformation to become a better person.

Every so often I read the short story again during the Christmas season (It is only 108 pages and makes for a fast read). It never ceases to amaze me the good character of Bob Cratchit.

The Cratchits were poor. They barely made enough to get by. They, like most of us, saved what little they had to have a proper Christmas dinner. They bought a cheap goose and tried to get what fixings they could to go with it. Mrs. Cratchit was stressed out. This would be her one big meal she would make each year. It needed to come out right even though she knew that clearly it was still not enough!

“The nerve of that Scrooge, only giving us 15 schillings a week,” she must have thought. In today’s money, that would be \$89 dollars per week, or \$4,628/yr. If he worked a 40 hr week, that would be \$2.23/hr. They could barely eat, let alone take care of medical costs for their family.

After they had finished eating their meager meal, Bob gave a toast. He didn’t do what we would expect. He gave a toast to his employer, “Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast.”

Jesus said to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Mt 5:44). That word “pray” can also mean “to wish.” Part of what Jesus is saying here is to wish your enemies and persecutors well. Which is precisely what Bob Cratchit did. He toasted his boss. He had just come from church and must have taken the words of Christ seriously.

May we follow the words of Jesus and the example of Bob. May we be people who care about our enemies. It isn’t easy. Many times we are like Mrs. Cratchit who is angry at those around her for the wrongs they have done to her. I don’t blame her for that, but Jesus calls us to a higher approach.

“Father, forgive them.”

**--Alex Swango**