

November 30, 2019

Union Designated

Thanksgiving. In 1918, a Minnesota photographer heard a knock at his door. He opened the door and found a poor, elderly peddler standing there with a few articles to sell. The photographer, Eric Enstrom, said, “I am just ready to sit down at the table for dinner. Won’t you come in and join me?”

The shy, aged peddler hesitantly stepped into the house and soon was seated at the table. Then Enstrom’s mind lit up with a creative idea. “Before we eat our meal,” he said, “would you kindly pose over here at the smaller table?” The peddler was happy to cooperate with this man who had shown him such warm-hearted, Scandinavian hospitality.

Enstrom placed the elderly man before a small table on which was placed a large family Bible and on it a pair of spectacles. Beside the Bible, the photographer set a bowl of gruel, a loaf of bread, and a knife. “There,” he sighed with artistic satisfaction, “and now will you bow your head in prayer?”

The peddler did not need any coaching when it came to the matter of prayer. He folded his calloused hands together, rested his forehead on the thumbs, and silently returned thanks for the food set before him. When Mr. Enstrom developed the negative, he knew he had a very special picture—one that many of you have probably owned. It seemed to say, “This man does not have much of earthly goods, but he has more than most people—he has a thankful heart!”