

Florida Advance

Have I played my part well? This was the last question of Augustus Octavius, one of the most celebrated emperors of Rome. He was also a contemporary of Jesus Christ. Yet, the two could not have been more different. Augustus boasted that he found Rome in brick and left it in marble. Jesus left the center of the universe as God to save humanity by embracing human frailty. Augustus was a man of war commanding legions, while Jesus was a man of peace healing broken lives.

When death was near, Augustus asked those close to him if his life had any meaning. He famously asked: "Have I played my part well in this comedy called life? If so, please applaud as I exit." Augustus knew that there is more to life than conquest, riches, or glory. Jesus also knew that the greatest gift in life is one of service lived for the benefit of others. We see Jesus in the Bible healing, feeding, and reviving people.

Let us do as Jesus did and serve our communities with our time, talents, and financial contributions. Today, our offerings serve the various ministries of the Conference Advance. Let's give generously. Jesus reminds us to seek God's kingdom first and all other things will also be given to us (Matthew 6:33).