

The Drunk at My Window

Angela Souza

It was nearly midnight and I was brushing my teeth, already half asleep, when I heard him. He was shouting and mumbling at the same time. Probably a drunk calling to his drinking buddy, I decided.

Half an hour later, I could still hear the man shouting, though I couldn't make out anything he was saying. Enough was enough! I decided to call the police.

As I passed a window, I saw that the man was standing under a streetlight. He was older than I had imagined, bare-chested in the cold, and yelling right in my direction.

A young man stopped to talk with him. A moment later he took off his jacket and put it on the old man. I was astonished. The two hugged, and I could tell that the young man was praying for the drunk. A couple passed and did a double take, but the young man didn't seem to care what they were thinking. Eventually the modern-day Good Samaritan put his arm around the old man, as if to say "I'll get you home," and with that the two were gone.

I stood at the window awhile longer, thinking about my own Christianity. I had to admit that my reaction to the annoying drunk had fallen far short of what Jesus' would have been. Jesus wouldn't have called the police. He would have stopped. He would have talked with the man. He would have given him His coat. He would have listened to him, comforted him, and prayed for him. And it might have changed the old man's life.

When I eventually went back to bed, I thanked God for sending that young man to help both the drunk and me. And I prayed to do better next time God sends a needy person my way.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. ... Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."—*Jesus, Matthew 25:34-36,40*

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While We Can

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.—*Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)*

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Only during the few years of this life are we given the privilege of serving each other and Christ. We will have heaven forever, but have only a short time for service here, and therefore must not waste the opportunity.—*Sadhu Sundar Singh (1889-1933)*

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Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.—*Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

How to build a better world in one simple step

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone would simply do what Jesus said to do—love our neighbors as ourselves?¹ But when people don't treat others with much love, they're going to have problems—and they do! It can safely be said that all of the evils in the world today have their root cause in people's lack of love for God and one another. Nevertheless, the simple love of God and one another is still God's solution, even in such a complex, confused, and highly complicated society as that of the world today. If we love God, we can love and respect others too. We can then follow His rules of life, liberty, and the possession of happiness, and all will be well and happy in Him.—*David Brandt Berg (1919-1994)*

1. See Matthew 22:39.