



By Rabbi Moshe Wolf

Just a few days ago a memorial service was held at the 'Wall of Remembrance" in Gold Star Park, as the name of P.O. Tom Boyle joined the sacred list of names of those that have given their lives in the line of duty. A special thanks to Superintendent (Ret.) Phil Cline and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation for all their support and efforts (emotionally and financially) on behalf of our officers and their families. I stood in awe listening to the long list of accomplishments of PO Boyle, his love, dedication and sacrifice for his personal family and his police family. When you look around at all the names inscribed on the wall, your mind is full of questions, your eyes swell with tears and your heart knows the biggest honor we can give our heroes, is to continue to carry the torch that they carried. Let's remember that in life when you are shown more than you can understand, be mindful of the following story "Sometimes you have to let go"...

Jack was walking along a steep cliff one day when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he grabbed a branch, which stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that the canyon fell straight down for more than a thousand feet. He couldn't hang onto the branch forever, and there was no way for him to climb up the steep wall of the cliff.

So Jack began yelling for help, hoping that someone passing by would hear him and lower a rope or something. "HELP! HELP! Is anyone up there? "HELP!" He yelled for a long time, but no one heard him. He was about to give up when he heard a voice.

"Jack, Jack. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, yes! I can hear you. I'm down here!"

"I can see you, Jack. Are you all right?"

"Yes, but who are you, and where are you?"

"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."

"The Lord? You mean, G-D?"

"Yes, that's Me."

"G-d, please help me! I promise if, you'll get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person. I'll serve you for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises, Jack. Let's get you off from there, then we can talk."

"Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully."

"I'll do anything, Lord. Just tell me what to do."

"Okay. Let go of the branch."

"What?"

"I said, let go of the branch." Just trust me. Let go."

There was a long silence.

Finally Jack yelled, "IS ANYONE ELSE UP THERE I CAN TALK TO ???"

Have you ever felt like Jack? We say that we want to know the will of G-d, but when we find out that it is not always like we planned it, we can't handle it. If the sacrifice sounds too scary or too difficult, we decide to look elsewhere. When He says, "Let go of the things that stand between you and me, and trust me with your life," it sounds pretty scary. But when we let go, we find freedom, safety and comfort in His hands. Not always easy, but then again neither is it easy to carry our own burdens. I carry a patch in my pocket that says, "If you have questions, ask G-d, If you don't, thank G-d".

And the other lesson we can learn from walking through Police Memorial Park is, make the most of every day, cause we don't know what tomorrow will bring. Life can change that quickly. As the story goes "There are two days we shouldn't worry about"....

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is Yesterday with all its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.

Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow with all its' possible opportunities, its' burdens, its' large promise.

Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet to be born. This leaves only one day, Today.

Most persons can muster the strength to fight the battle of just one day. It is when you add the burdens that are beyond our control of Yesterday and Tomorrow that we break down. Let us, therefore, live today and make the best of it, and live our lives, 'one day at a time'. And remember find something to smile about every day (even if you have to look in the mirror) and then share it with a friend. I just did.

A special note to the members of my flock of the Jewish faith I wish you the best of blessings for the New Year (Rosh Hashana, September 17 &18). May you be inscribed in the book of life for good health and prosperity.

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe, today and always. Amen

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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