



“DON’T WE ALL Know ”

November 2024

As we enter the Holiday Season just a little reminder, please look around among your peers with the following thoughts: not all are blessed to celebrate the Holidays with family and friends. Some of our peers have no family, some don't have a special loved one to share the Holidays with. Please let's adopt the motto "In our family you are never alone". Brothers and sisters, you know who these individuals are, please consider inviting them to your family's Holiday celebrations. You both will have a better Holiday. So that no one should have to celebrate alone

or feel lonely...It reminds me of the story ..."Don't We All" ...

I was parked in front of a shopping center wiping off my car. I had just come from the car wash and was cleaning out the inside of my car, lost in thought, contemplating life and carrying a heavy heart for a friend dying of cancer. Coming my way from across the parking lot was what society would consider a "street person", "bum", "street panhandler".

From his looks it seemed as if he had no car, no home, no clean clothes, and no money. There are times when you feel generous, but there are other times that you just don't want to be bothered. This was one of those "don't want to be bothered, leave me alone" times.

"I hope he doesn't come my way," I thought. He didn't. He came and sat on the curb in front of the bus stop but he didn't look like he could have enough money to even ride the bus. After a few minutes he spoke. "That's a very cool car," he said. He was ragged but he had an air of simple dignity around him. I said, "thanks," and continued wiping off my car.

He sat there quietly as I worked. The expected plea for money never came. As the silence between us widened, something inside said, "ask him if he needs any help." I was sure that he would say "yes" but I held true to the inner voice. "Sir, do you need any help?" I asked.

He answered in three simple but profound words that I shall never forget. We often look for wisdom in great men and women. We expect it from those of higher learning and accomplishments.

I expected nothing but an outstretched boney hand, that I would gladly help. Instead, we locked eyes and he spoke the three words that shook me, and I'll never forget.

"Don't we all?" he answered. Then he added "at some point in life we all need a shoulder to lean on or ear to listen".

I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important, above a supposed "street person" in the street, until those three words hit me like a twelve-gauge shotgun....."Don't we all"?

I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed help if nothing more, then to stop and count my blessings get my head back in focus. I reached in my wallet and gave him not only enough for bus fare, but enough to get a warm meal and shelter for the day. Those three little words still ring true. No matter how much we have, no matter how much we have accomplished, we need help too. No matter how little we have, no matter how loaded we are with problems, even without money or a place to sleep, we can give help to another in need of physical or emotional help.

Even if it's just a compliment, we can give that. We never know when we may see someone that appears

to have it all; they may be waiting for us to give them what they don't have, perhaps a smile, a handshake, a friendly hug, or a kind word. A different perspective on life, a glimpse at something beautiful, a respite from daily chaos, that only we through a different perspective can see. Maybe the man coming towards me in the parking lot was just a homeless stranger wandering the streets or maybe he was more than that?

Maybe the man was sent by a power that is great and wise, to minister to a soul too comfortable in themselves or to remind them that no matter how heavy their burden, there are those carrying a heavier burden.

Maybe G-d looked down, called an Angel, dressed him like a bum, then said, "go minister to that man cleaning his car, that man needs help keeping his life in focus." "Don't we all"?.....

"Reflection and Thanksgiving"

As we are about to celebrate the Holiday of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on this past year. There were good moments that made us smile and laugh, and moments that broke our heart and made us cry. We had good times, and times when we were shown more than we can understand. As the saying goes 'one thing in life is for certain, that nothing is for certain'. The trick is to take a few moments each day to stop, and give thanks for what we DO have. Remember, life is a gift, that's why it is called 'the present'.

A Thanksgiving Prayer.....

Lord, we thank You for having given us life. G-d, you have given us everything that we have and blessed us better than we deserve. Help us to see with Your eyes all the beauty that exists around us. Often, we look around but don't really see how lucky we are. Help us to not complain about small things day in and day out either. But rather let us thank You for the simple things in life, like sunshine, family and loved ones.

G-d help us to be conscious of everything that we have going for us, even if we are afflicted by illness or challenges of everyday life. Thou art glorious and can grant us the strength to use the power we possess to change our lives. Lord we are happy for what we have and will have because it comes from You, whatever comes from You is filled with glory and we accept it.

Thank You for having created the lakefront, for it is beautiful, the sun, for it is bright, the moon, for it is romantic, and the day and the night. Thank You for giving us food every day to eat and water to drink. You know our needs and fulfill them. Many worry, saying what shall we eat or how are we going to cope with all that is shown to us, because we know in life sometimes, we are shown more than we can understand.

But we should be like the birds and have faith. They worry not as to what they will eat today or tomorrow, yet You provide for them Lord. Help us to have a greater faith in You Lord, and help us to not worry so much.

We thank You Lord for all the beautiful things You bring into our lives each day. Lord help the thanksgiving nature which is within us to become more present in our lives. So that when we begin to think negatively or complain about small things, please remind us of all our blessings, and to be thankful for everything we already have. And please help us to remember each day to appreciate our loved ones, who enrich our lives and mean so much to us. Bless us, keep us safe, and always keep us in Your loving care. Amen.

A little humor from the "Moshe Files", to keep you smiling:

"BATH TUB TEST.

"During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in a Long-Term Care Home?"

"Well," the Dr. said, "we fill up a bathtub with warm water, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person and ask them to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," and then I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" the Dr. said. "A normal person would pull the plug and let the water drain". The Dr. looked at me and said "Do you want a bed near the window?"...lol

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care. Thank you for the holy work that you do. We appreciate you; our city appreciates you; society couldn't survive without you. Pease remember should you ever need a shoulder to lean on, or an ear to listen we are ALWAYS AVAILABLE for you, never hesitate to call. Your pain is our pain, and we are here to assist anyway we can. All your Chaplains are listed in your FOP books.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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