

Soul Nudge

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I was thrift shopping for dorm stuff. The cashier appeared to be one of the most unhappy, maddest people ever. I was six people deep in the line and it seemed like she got more and more exasperated with each passing customer.

She was especially incensed when one of my unmarked items needed a price check. It sent this poor woman toppling right over the edge and I bore the brunt of her fall.

But as she rang up my items, I felt a little tingle in my spirit, a soul nudge.

I tried to bargain with Jesus and told Him that the extra little bit of cash in the back side of my wallet was not meant for her. It surely should go to someone sweeter and kinder, more deserving, or at least appreciative maybe. Not someone downright mean and angry. But God did not budge. Nor did the tingle.

The human heart is our very best compass. It rarely leads us astray.

So, I paid my bill and reluctantly found the backside of my wallet. I slipped her some cash as she handed me my receipt. She was caught off-guard by the gesture. She gripped the folded bill with one hand and paused. Then slid her mask down with the other hand. Her loud, stern voice got quiet when she whispered a single word, "Why?" To which I answered two words back: "Soul nudge."

There was another pause. A brief reckoning of sorts. When she grabbed my hand and held on, I was the one caught off-guard. "Today's my 75th birthday and ain't nobody called me. Not my sister. Not none of my kids. None these people here. Nobody. Nothing. I don't think I can remember ever being so sad. Ain't nobody even remembered it's my birthday."

I felt the tingle again. And looked up into the buzzing, broken ballast of the light fixture above us in this old warehouse. Like Jesus is some pie-in-the-sky that we might see if we look hard enough. The light flickered. "Somebody remembered," I said. While I did not see Jesus, that small soul nudge told me that He saw her.

She bit her bottom lip when her eyes threatened to leak. And I noticed a deep hurt and sweet humility under the figurative and physical mask she wore underneath her chin. We all have our masks, don't we?

The birthday news had made its way beside me and two more customers connected. Talk is cheap and words seem too few—until they aren't. There was a small chorus of chirping happy birthdays. She just stood there, patting her heart and taking it all in. The words penetrated. Anger dissipated. Hope manifested. The tingle became tangible.

We just never know what someone else may be navigating or battling. Things are not always as they seem.

We are living in an upside-down world right now. We may be tempted to return hatefulness with hate, to retaliate, to alienate, to trade out judgment for Grace. But there's a better way.

I thought I needed dorm stuff today. Turns out I needed reminding – – maybe you do too?

Let's be slow to judge and quick to obey. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead the way. The human heart, guided by Love, will not lead you astray.

Practical Applications

You will need a set of Grace cards. Purchase through the Aglow store. [GameChangers Grace Cards - Aglow Store](#)

1. As you read through the story, what thoughts went through your mind? Did you remember a time when you followed a 'soul nudge'? Would you be willing to share it with the group? How did you feel afterwards?
2. Everyone needs to be around people who follow 'soul nudges'? Take a few minutes to explore ways your team and those attending your Lighthouse could reach out to the community to release 'soul nudges'. Here are a few ideas to get your thoughts perking. After getting permission, stand outside a local business with a sign that says, 'Free hugs!' or 'Need a kind word?' How about this one? Purchase flowers at the Dollar Store, then write scriptures on paper and attach to the stem and take them to a retirement home. Ask permission to hand out.
3. Take time to share kind words with all those in the group today. Kindness matters.
4. Bring blank cards or make cards and take time for the group to make cards for family members that could be hidden under a pillow, tucked in a lunch, or handed to them. Blessings will abound!
5. Now, let's look at this story from the perspective of the cashier. She felt unseen and unloved. She thought no one cared about her, but when Grace touched her through the lady's gift, it began to change her whole demeanor and her attitude. In LifeChangers the middle lesson is *Understanding True Grace*.

Can you think of a time when certain circumstances caused you to react like the cashier? Why do you think that happened? Has something happened in your life that would keep you from reacting as the cashier did?

In the Grace cards set, one of the cards says *the beauty of Grace changes me from the inside out*. What does that mean to you?

Another card reads *Grace is much more than a blessing that I can receive in moments of need. It is a place in which I stand*. What does that mean to you? Share with the group.

Another reads *Grace opens me to the astonishing future that belongs to me in Christ*. Thoughts?

Another – *In every circumstance Grace can change a difficulty into a possibility*.

6. If time permits pass out Grace Cards and let each one take turns reading several.