

Let Your Light So Shine that Men may See Your Good Works

And glorify your Father In Heaven

Illustration

It's all about staying close to your Father, friends. Staying so close that you can hear His heart beating. And then doing whatever He whispers for you to do.

Story: Eric a 20-year-old black man I met in the Cleveland airport. His father worked for Continental airlines in Houston, and because of his father's job Eric was able to fly 'standby' for a price of \$30. I had given up my ticket so a father and son could make the flight to Detroit and then on to South Bend. They gave me \$400 of travel coupons so I jumped at the chance to give up my seat. But just after I had given up my ticket I saw the Continental agent go over to this young man and say, I'm sorry there are no seats left for standby passengers. With that I looked at Eric. He wasn't nasty to the agent, but with a set jaw and fiery eyes he asked, "How am I supposed to get to South Bend." The man replied, "This is the last flight out tonight. You can either sleep here and get the first flight in the morning, or you can pay another \$30 and get on the Delta flight to Detroit and on to South Bend. With that the agent left Eric and the young man stood, with jaw clenched looking straight out the window. It was then that God spoke to this boy. He said, "Go over and talk to Eric." I said, "Are you sure, Lord?" He said, "Go and talk to Eric."

So I wandered over and said to him, "I heard the agent talking to you, what are you going to do?" He said, "I don't know. I was trying to get to South Bend because my mother called and told my dad that my sister was suppose to go into the hospital to have a baby." He smiled at me and said, "I'm going to be an uncle." I said, Wow, you've got to get there. How much money do you need?" Now, I had already counted my funds. I knew what it would take to get my car out of parking at the airport and I knew that I had \$23 remaining. And I had already decided that I would be willing to give this man \$15 dollars if he could come up with the rest.

But then he said, I don't have any money. I used my last couple of dollars to buy a hotdog and drink because I thought I could get on this plane.

I thought to myself, well, he doesn't have any money. My \$23 isn't going to get him anywhere. He needs \$30. So I said, I don't have enough to get you there either. Sorry about that. With that I gave him enough to at least buy some food while he slept in the airport that night and I turned and walked away.

Author: Garry Sudds, 2007.

After I was a few gates away, that voice my Father whispering to me, said go back and ask some of the other people for the rest of the money. I said, "Father! I don't want to beg people for money. I'm not a street person." He said, "You go back and ask some people." So I walked back to Eric and said, "here is the rest of my money. Now you have \$23 dollars, wait here." I looked over all the people sitting waiting for the plane to come and decided on two couples who were nicely dressed sitting across from each other. Making my last minute evaluation of who to talk to first along the way, I went up to the first couple and said, This guy was going stand by and got bumped off the plane I gave him some \$ to get a ticket from Delta. He can get one for \$30 because his dad works for the airlines. Would you have \$7 dollars you could spare. The husband smiled at me and said, "I don't think so." Now that is an embarrassing thing to go through, but just then the lady sitting on the other side said, "what does he want?" I turned around and went through my speech again and the husband, started asking more questions. After 2 or three questions the wife spoke up and said, "Oh, John. Give him the money." With that the husband pulled out a \$10 bill and said, "Here, give him this."

You need to know that with that \$10 bill, this boy lit up like a light. I went back to Eric and said, "Those people right over there gave you this." Eric said, "thank you sir" and he went over to the couple that had given the money and said, "God bless you folks. Thank you for helping me." When Eric was coming back over to me I looked at the two ticket agents. One of them was a young lady and she had just finished telling her partner what had happened and when I glanced over at her she went (thumbs up) that was awesome.

He we were, my face was shining, the couple that gave the money were shining, the ticket agents were shining and most of all Eric the former stern faced, jaw clinched 20 year old man was shining & all because our Father slapped my on the side of the head and said, "go and ask some people for money". What a joy!! What a blessing it is when our Father speaks to us, then we do what He wants us to do.

Rest of story: Eric and I ended up on same plane to Detroit and on to South Bend. When we arrived his mother was at the hospital with his sister and I had the privilege of giving him a ride to his mother's place in Elkhart, IN. Along the way, Eric told me how his mother had gotten into using drugs when he was little so he went to live with his father in Huston. He told me of the struggles he had gone through, but how he had gotten through high school and in May he was ready to graduate from trade school as a welder. When we finally got to his house. Eric looked at me and said it again. "God

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bless you.” As I drove away, I thought, “He already has Eric. You were His blessing for me tonight.”