



“For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.”

Romans 7: 12

This is the time of year, that many people try to come up with New Year’s resolutions. I don’t know about you, but I’ve never been all that successful with them. I can relate to Paul’s words to the Romans: I don’t do the good I want to do! To some extent, we can point to COVID and it’s fall out. Every time I start to make plans to do anything, they seem to get derailed by a new strain (I used to love the Greek alphabet!). This year instead of a list of goals, I’m just going to start paying more attention to the good in the world. I’m going to be intentional about seeing all the beauty and kindness of everyday things. Beyond that, I’m going to try and point these things out to others. There are already more than enough critics in the world.

Over the weekend, I squeezed in a grocery shopping trip. As I moved through the aisles looking for the things on my list, I saw some people rudely pushing past others. I also saw shoppers waiting patiently and helping one another. It was a mixed bag of kindness and rudeness. When I got in line to pay, I saw that the person at the head of the line was having an in-depth discussion with the cashier. She kept referring to something on her phone. Other employees also had gathered around – apparently to accomplish getting this woman checked out and on her way. The next customer in line turned to me and said, “this has been going on for a while.”

I looked around and didn’t see a line that looked any better, so resolved to just wait my turn. It really wasn’t too much longer before the next person in line had her turn. I heard her say to the cashier, “can I put my phone number in for the reward points?”

The cashier, replied, “I don’t know. *Can* you?” He then turned to the bagger and said, “Where’s an English teacher when you need one? Let’s page an English teacher.”

My eyes just about bugged out of my head. I couldn't believe that he would be that terribly rude to a customer that had been waiting patiently for so long just to purchase the food she needed. She, however, didn't show any anger at all. She paid for her purchases and made her way to the door with a wave and a "Happy Holidays!"

When it came to be my turn, I asked, "May I enter my phone number?" His eyes widened and he said, "Oh, you heard that?" I just nodded and he did whatever needed to be done for me to enter the number. He was perfectly polite to me and my kid throughout the check out process and then told us, "Happy Holidays!" as we left. That previous customer, who had refused to allow his rudeness to affect her, had provided a reset to his attitude.

I've been thinking for quite a while about when and how we each extend grace to others. I think since COVID began, we've all had our patience taxed to the max. I have received requests from many people that I extend them grace, but I haven't experienced nearly as many people extending grace. That is why the customer in the grocery store stood out to me so boldly. She didn't allow the store employee's rudeness to impact her behavior. To the contrary, her extension of grace to him, did impact his behavior to the degree that he was much kinder to me and the customer than came after me.

I want to be that kind of person. A person who doesn't allow others' rudeness to change my behavior. I want to be the kind of person, whose grace can give someone a better day. So, maybe I am setting a resolution after all.

Angel Circle



The Angels have donated quilts to the nuns in Morristown and the Navajo Indians. Thanks to Debbie Andersen for making this possible. Quilts were also donated to Vohra Wound physicians Center, formerly the Atrium, in Wayne.

Our next meeting dates are January 12th and 26th, weather permitting.

We wish everyone a Healthy New Year,
Barbara Kaplan