

## Don't We All



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I was parked in front of the mall wiping off my car. I had just come from the car wash and was waiting for my wife to get out of work. Coming my way from across the parking lot was what society would consider a bum. From the looks of him, 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 bothered times.

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 pretty car," he said.

"I hope he doesn't ask me for any money," I thought.

He was ragged but he had an air of dignity around him. His scraggly blond beard keeps more than his face warm.

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.

"Do you need any help?" I asked.

He answered in three simple but profound words that I shall  
never forge. 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 grimy hand. He  
spoke the three words that shook me.

"Don't we all?" he said.

I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important,  
above a bum 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. 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  
you have, no matter how much you have accomplished, you  
need help too. No matter how little you have, no matter  
how loaded you are with problems, even without money or  
a place to sleep, you can give help.

Even if it's just a compliment, you can give that. You never  
know when you may see someone that appears to have it  
all. They are waiting on you to give them what they don't  
have.

A different perspective on life, a glimpse at something beautiful, a respite from daily chaos that only you through a Tom world can see.

Maybe the man was just a homeless stranger wandering the streets.

Maybe he was more than that.

Maybe he was sent by a power that is great and wise to messenger to a soul too comfortable in themselves.

Maybe God looked down, called an Angel, dressed him like a bum and then said, "Go messenger to that man cleaning the car, that man needs help." Don't we all?

Even a smile can be a charity.

*Lesson: Everyone Needs Help Sometimes*