

The Upper Room^[1] devotional reflection for Saturday, May 1, 2021 comes to us from Maire Simm of Tallinn, Estonia

Luke 6:20-31 *20 Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. 23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. 24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. 25 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. 26 Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets. 27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

"Kind Words"

My apartment is close to a large shopping center, and I often visit the grocery store there. Even though there are many checkout counters at the exit of the grocery store, I usually push my shopping cart to one familiar cashier who has always been very friendly and efficient.

One day she looked tired and sad, which was unusual. I wanted to cheer her up so I told her how much I like her friendly attitude in serving customers. She looked at me and her eyes were filled with tears. She said, "Thank you for your kind words. My husband died yesterday in the hospital, and you have consoled me."

I believe that God's Spirit prompted me to start that conversation. How often do we notice the needs of our neighbors? How often do we respond to God's prompting to speak a word of kindness? If we are willing to listen, we may hear God's voice guiding us to speak a word that someone needs to hear.

Prayer Focus: Cashiers

Prayer: Loving God, help us to listen for your prompting, and help us to speak words of kindness and peace to those around us. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Today I will look for an opportunity to speak God's peace to someone.

--- David Knisley

Friends –

Recently, I was languishing in feelings of isolation and discouragement. I returned a phone call from a member of our congregation, and that person (you know who you are) said that they were going to view something that I had recorded for our online Sunday School Program. It wasn't very long before I got a text complementing me on that presentation. That literally made my day, and I was grateful.

--Pastor bea

¹ <https://www.upperroom.org/>