

## Something to Sing About

*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33 ESV*

*But Jesus called them to Him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28*

*A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men. Proverbs 18:16 NASB*

Tommy couldn't get a job because he was an ex-con. Memaw believed in him and was willing to take a chance to help him. She went to go to the city council meeting to help Ahmeed get the city's contract for recycling and garbage removal. Then she convinced Ahmeed to give Tommy a job.

Why do you the Memaw was so willing to help Ahmeed and Tommy?

It was hard for Tommy to admit that he needed help filling out the form. All his life he struggled with the fear of being thought of as stupid. Memaw said, "Now don't get proud on me. Pride brings a man low. If you need help all you gotta do is ask." Tommy went to prison for something that he didn't do. He ended up staying longer in prison because of his temper. Feelings of low self-worth can make people want to prove themselves, but end up causing trouble. Have you ever struggled with low self-worth?

When Mr. Thompson called Tommy stupid he kicked over trash containers in anger. Later Robert told Tommy that he was fighting the wrong war. "The real battle isn't between you and them." (The people that insult you.) "The real battle is inside you." Ahmeed told Tommy that "beating a man in a fight never changes him for the good." He said when Tommy learned to show love and kindness that respect would grow inside of himself. "Love changes people. It will even change you." Sometimes our reactions can be more damaging than the offense committed against us. Do you struggle with anger or resentment? Ask God to help you.

Memaw had a pattern of adopting young men in need: Ahmeed, Tommy and finally G. Smooth. Ahmeed told Tommy, "People will treat you like a servant, but that's alright because you are; a public servant." Remember, the greatest person who ever lived was also a servant. As soon as I can trust you with the small things, you get bigger and better things to do."

Are you faithful in small things? How do you react when someone disrespects you?

Brenda Brass said, "If the right people were to see you, the sky is the limit." She wanted Tommy to be a star. It brought him joy to sing in the grocery store and on the streets while he was picking up the recycling. Singing in church meant more to him than becoming famous. Tommy said, "You said to pretend like I was home, and I don't want to pretend. I want to be home. If it is God's will the opportunity will come around again." What is important to you? Do you find contentment in your life?

When Tommy learned that his friend, G. Smooth, was the person who betrayed him it made him angry. Later, though, Tommy was willing to put his own life in jeopardy to rescue his friend. Tommy was faithful to G. Smooth even though he'd been hurt by him.

Has someone ever helped you when you didn't deserve it? Have you helped someone else?

*Dear Lord, please take away our pride and fill us with confidence in You. Teach us how to show kindness and respect to others. Help us to trust that the gifts that You have given us will make room for us. Show us how to seek Your kingdom trusting that You will take care of us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*