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SMALL GESTURES...HUGE DIVIDENDS

I have heard faith is more often caught than taught. Another popular idea is that we have a greater chance of winning others to Christ when our actions speak louder than our words. It seems like these concepts hold true in life, but I was curious if there was Biblical evidence to support these ideas. I recently read an unlikely Scripture in a new perspective, thanks to the Holy Spirit, that I believe supports these beliefs. 1 Peter 3:1-2 says, *“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”* I don’t think this verse only applies to wives because we saw our Savior Jesus do exactly this during His earthly ministry. His entire life revolved around submitting to the will of His Father. Even though Jesus was certainly able to declare His authority over creation and mankind, He did not. He submitted and served others. In a corporate world that boasts servant leadership, Jesus was the original servant leader. Whether it was providing wine at a wedding, speaking with the woman at the well, healing the sick, or washing His disciples’ feet, Jesus was always quick to offer His assistance.

THAT SMALL ACT OF KINDNESS

I recently upgraded to Captain. It has been a great experience not because of the extra authority and responsibility that comes with this new role, quite the opposite. I have found the more I serve rather than ask of others, the better the trip goes because I have the support of all those supporting the flight. We recently had a 6-hour delay because of summertime weather. When I asked the gate agent if she would like me to make the announcement to the passengers that we would be deplaning the airplane for the second time because of another delay, you should have seen the relief in her eyes. It was a small gesture, but she did everything she could to support our flight crew and passengers after that small act of kindness.

Most of my examples of servant leadership are small, but

they have paid off with huge dividends. Jesus paid the price with much greater sacrifices. 1 Peter 2:19-22 says, *“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure; this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”*

EYES ARE WATCHING

It is easy to do small gestures like mine when you are not ridiculed, but it takes a Christ-like love when we are mocked or ridiculed. In those situations, it takes the power of the Holy Spirit to respond like Jesus and love our enemies. Recently I heard a great prayer to pray in such situations:

*I can only make requests, I have no rights;
Because I walk by faith, not by sight.
And if my requests are denied,
then, God, I must seek Your face;
And anything You give me, it's by Your grace.*

Let us go forth knowing there are eyes watching how we will respond ... and hopefully a chance to give others the reason for our love as we walk in the grace our Heavenly Father graciously gives us.

This article was written by Stephen Watts. Stephen is a Captain with Delta Airlines and also serves on our FCAP Board of Directors.

Join with others from around the world in prayer. Our **FCAP VIDEO / PHONE PRAYER CONFERENCE** is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 am EDT (1400 GMT). Contact office@fcap.org or call 770.461.9320 for details.





Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

*"If I ride the morning winds to the farthest oceans, even there
Your hand will guide me, Your strength will support me." Psalm 139: 9-10*

ABOUT US

The **ministry of FCAP** is carried on by everyday ordinary people throughout the airline workplaces of the world who go to work with an extraordinary calling to be "salt and light."

The **FCAP ministry** is neither a special interest group, nor are we for certain issues.



FCAP is a fellowship of Christians who identify with one another through a common focus and purpose. And we desire to demonstrate how our faith in Jesus Christ can influence the people and circumstances of our workplace. We are blessed to have both airline and non-airline people who encourage and support this ministry.



VALUES

- We value doing our work wholeheartedly as unto the Lord, knowing we represent Christ by the quality of our performance while on the job. (Ephesians 6:6)
- We value intentionally engaging our faith in the workplace by expressing it in both deeds and words. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- We value influencing the people around us by creatively building relationships with them and looking out for their interests just as we do our own.
- We value connecting the church in the workplace by seeking out other Christians, to mutually show our love for one another and our care for the people God has placed around us. (John 13:35)

PERSPECTIVE & FOCUS

Most people look at work primarily as a source of income. Some even view it as a curse imposed on them as punishment from God.

The **Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel** believes that God places a high value on work and is deeply interested in our work, our performance on the job, and our relationships with our co-workers.

FCAP's mission: *"To represent Christ in the airlines/aviation industry through meaningful relationships and quality work worldwide."*

FCAP's purpose encourages people to *know and experience God's presence with them at work and to trust Him for the enabling strength in the responsibilities and challenges of work.*

WE OFFER

- Training Sessions
- Prayer Networks
- Free Publications
- Weekly Thoughts
- Support and Fellowship

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