

December 10, 2011 - Middle Keys - Gary L. Roberts: A CHRISTMAS LESSON AT DAFFY DOUG'S

Gary L Roberts – The Last Resort Ministry



Many times God will reach down and touch you at the least expected time and place. It happened to me just this week after returning from a Sunday Chapel Service at the Big Pine Road Prison. A quest for salad makings required a stop at Daffy Doug's. The crowd was unusually large and come check out time, I found myself in a long line. It appeared that some had been waiting for an exceptionally long time and the reason soon became apparent. A young mother with two small children, a boy and a girl, was checking out. It seemed that all she had to pay with was small change – and lots of it. Everyone, including myself, was getting impatient as the nickels and dimes seemed to keep coming and the clerk continued to keep counting. The young mother embarrassingly apologized to all of us waiting in line behind her. About that time the young boy came up to his mother with something clutched tightly in his hand and excitedly exclaimed, "Look what I have!" His mother was startled at what she saw in her son's clenched fist and asked, "Where did you get that?" All of us in line looked at what the boy was holding out to his mother - a very large bill of legal tender. The boy pointed to the man behind me and told his mother that was who gave it to him. The mother told the man that she could not accept it and he told her to go ahead. When she asked, "Are you sure?" He replied, "Merry Christmas." She went over to him and teary eyed kissed him on the check. I don't know who the man was, but he had white hair and a white beard and looked somewhat like Santa Clause. Actually, to me at that time, he looked more like Jesus Christ. I told him as I checked out and he came to the counter after me that I thanked him too – for the Christmas lesson learned that day.

Yes, I had just returned from preaching about God's love to the men at the Road Prison and was preparing to go to the Marathon Jail to do the same later that afternoon. But preaching about God's love and living it are two very separate issues. I told the men at the jail the above story and how ashamed I felt at being impatient and how I wished that I had been compassionate like the man behind me in line. One inmate asked me if I was going to tell my wife. I replied, "Probably not" - although I guess she will read about it here.

As I write this, I keep seeing that scene before me and know that this is what Jesus wants us to do. His commandment to us is "Love one another." That was exemplified to me today at Daffy Doug's. How about you?

Merry Christmas to your family from ours at the Last Resort Ministry and the Life Recovery Group where we all are in recovery from something. By the way - It's still ok to say, "Merry Christmas!"

1 John 2 (Holy Bible New Living Translation)

¹⁶ We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?

¹⁸ Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions...

²³ And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us.

Frank's Grill is our latest advertiser. We conduct our interviews there. Everyone knows how good Frank's Grill is. My favorite is Caesar Salad with grilled chicken. Yummm.