

The Theft

Recently I went to the grocery store and spent an obscene amount of money. I usually order online, and it helps curb my tendency to buy stuff that I sometimes never get around to cooking or impulse buying. When I got to my car with the groceries, I discovered under my purse three bottles of nail polish and two packages of lip balm. These were hidden from view under my purse and the alarm did not go off and I had not paid for them. I was sweating in the store and the older woman packing had insisted that she help me put my coat back on so I would not get chilled. This was after making a remark about the amount of ice cream I bought. By the time I arrived at my car and discovered the unpaid for merchandise I was having problems with shortness of breath plus sweating and needed to sit down and turn on my AC. I added up my pilfered merchandise in my head and it was around \$44. I thought I will just come back tomorrow. I did not make it back the next day, but it was on my mind. After church on Sunday, I decided to take care of this oversight and stopped at the store. I was going to pick up a prescription (robbery works both ways but I told the young man I was not going to kill the messenger) and then go to the customer service desk thinking they would give me ice cream for being honest. The service desk was closed as were the self-checkout lanes at one end of the checkout lanes. The lanes were all lined up, but I waited at the self-checkout lanes at the other end and got a spot. I usually avoid anything that says self-serve because I feel like it is taking someone's job and I want to create jobs not take one. I scanned my pilfered items and then it said, "take receipt." Not being familiar with the self-serve lines I asked the woman next to me if the receipt in between the registers was hers. She said she hoped not because it looked like it said \$999. I choked a bit and there were a lot of nines on the slip, but the total was \$28.99. One item was free when two others were purchased. I had actually paid less than if I had bought them on Friday. I thanked my Lord, that watches over me, and happily went on my way. I thought for sure the alarm would go off when I entered the store or when I left but all was quiet. It also did not go off on Friday when the pilfered goods were in my basket. I also forgot to make an appointment for the third time for my Covid Booster, so I am on a roll with that. I did get the annual flu injection a couple of weeks ago.

God is with us in the big things and in the small things. God us good

Exodus 20:3-17 You shall have no other Gods before me. Do not make idols of any kind. Do not take the name of God in vain. Remember the sabbath and keep it holy. Honor your Father and Mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's property, nor his wife, nor his servant or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Lord, be with us each day. May all we do and say be acceptable to you Lord. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Comfort them. Be with those who are fighting cancer and those with chronic illness. Be with those who are far away from loved ones may they stay connected and may the comfort each other in times of sorrow. Lord be with our church may we be your church and the church you want us to be. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family. Bless our leaders and our staff, lead them and guide them. Lord, may we be the hands and feet of Jesus the Christ here in this time, in this place. All these things we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

Grace Epperson