

A God of Second Chances

Pastor Don's sermon this Sunday was on Second Chances. As I listened, I thought of all the times God had given me a second chance. How the second chances I received had formed my life. I was scheduled to go into Nurses Training in 1953 when I graduated from high school. I was all set, but my money was a little short. Now this was because I had a 1941 Dodge that I had impulsively purchased. I loved having a car and looking back I realize that this was one of the first "smart" cars. It knew I was paid every other Thursday and every other week it needed something. I did not have the money for the tuition. I had been accepted at Ford Hospital but did not show up. As the next year went by, I regretted my decision. I reapplied. To my surprise they accepted me again. This time I showed up for an interview. I was told I was going to be interviewed by the Director of Nurses. A very stern-looking authority figure. As I sat for the interview, I was sure I was going to be talked to about the previous year. I was. The Director talked to me, and I knew she was angry about my not showing up the previous year. She began questioning me, I was thinking about the excuses I could use. Illness in the family, offer of another job which I wanted to try, and anything else going through my head. Finally, I chose the truth and told her I did not have the money. She asked me if I had the money this year and I told her I had been saving for the last year and had the money despite my money hungry Dodge (which I didn't tell her about). She told me not to let money stop me again, that she would see that I had the money provided. I was happy that I had been given a 2nd chance and was able to enter school that year with enough money. However, my mother borrowed the \$200 I had left and refused to pay me back so my second year I thought I would have to go to the Director for the \$50 tuition, but my brother gave me the money and I didn't have to ask for help. By the 3rd year I was working on my days off and had sufficient money. We could do that towards the end of our 2nd year.

Lord, we thank you for the 2nd chances we receive, for the people you put in our paths and the kindness they bring to our lives. We thank you for the paths we are on that lead us to a better life and for the times you walk those paths with us. Lord, we ask that you be with us in all things in our coming and going. May we serve you with our lives and our deeds. Be with the hungry and the homeless, may we find ways to serve them. Be with Pastor Don, guide and bless him and Laura and their family. We thank you for his service. Be with our staff and leaders, guide and protect them. Be with our Country Lord, once again we are in turmoil and ask your help to be the people you have called us to be. We thank you Lord for all our days, may we use them wisely and in your honor. In Jesus name Lord. Amen

1 Corinthians 13:4 love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Grace Epperson