

Who Is Your Boss?

Stones of Remembrance: May 1979

For this story to make sense I must explain how teachers are rewarded for good teaching skills. The pay scale is not based on skill or performance but is based strictly on number of years of experience and highest degree earned. Principals reward teachers by assigning them the most desirable classes in their field. In the spring of 1978 my principal had given me my teaching assignment for the next year. I was pleased with the assignment. A week or two before school started I went to Katy High School to copy some materials that I planned to use the first week of school. I went into the principal's office to get the keys to my classroom. He gave me my keys and proceeded to inform me that my entire teaching assignment had changed. The change was not favorable at all. I had been assigned the mathematics classes that most mathematics teachers only taught as beginning teachers. I had seven years of experience at this time. He gave me no explanation for the change or why I had not been notified of the change. I was very upset. I don't remember saying much, but he could tell that I was upset. I left his office quickly. As I entered the hall the Lord spoke clearly to my spirit "Who is your boss?" My reply was "You are Lord." and I began to cry. Of course if He is my boss He is also the one who gives me my teaching assignments!!! I turned around immediately and went back into the principal's office. I apologized to him for my reaction to his changing my teaching assignment and told him that I would do the very best job I could in that assignment. He then told me that they had been short one mathematics teacher for this year. He interviewed a mathematics teacher that week who said she would not accept the position if she had to teach the classes he offered her. She told him what classes she was willing to teach. That just "happened" to be the classes he had promised me. He then changed my assignment and gave her the classes I had been promised.

I taught those classes to the best of my ability. After all, I teach students not just the subject. I loved those kids just like I had loved all my students in previous years. On the last day of school I was giving my final exams and a female student of mine came to the final very drunk. This never happened in any of my classes before or after this incident. She was not capable of sitting up straight, let alone take a final exam. However she was not disruptive in any way so I did not have her removed from the classroom. Early the next morning (between 2:00am and 3:00am, I think) Thressa called me. She was sober and very apologetic. She asked me to forgive her for coming to class drunk and said that she had gone out to lunch with a bunch of other students and they had too much to drink. She thanked me for not turning her in and then said: my life is such a mess and I don't know how to fix it. I said, "I know what you need, you need Jesus." I then led her to the Lord over the phone. The next time I saw her she was lying in a casket. She was killed in a car wreck within two months of that night that I prayed with her.

I thank God that he gave me that teaching assignment. The results of that "change in assignment" made it possible for me to cross paths with Thressa for eternal reasons. After that year I always looked to the Lord and expected Him to minister to someone in my classes. I knew that The LORD was my boss and He is always far more interested in assignments that have eternal consequences.

Psalms 37:12 (NKJV)

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NKJV)

*1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you" **Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.** [Isa 49:8]*

Beverly