

Reflection Tuesday Week 10 - 2021

A New York teacher decided to honour her high school seniors by telling each them how they had made a difference to her and the class. Then she presented each of them with a blue ribbon imprinted with gold letters which read, *"Who I Am Makes a Difference."*

Afterwards the teacher wanted to see what kind of impact **recognition** would have on a community. She gave each student 3 more ribbons and instructed them to go and spread this acknowledgment ceremony. Then they were to discover who honoured whom and report back.

One senior went to a junior executive and honoured him for helping him with his career planning. He put a blue ribbon on his shirt then gave him two extra ribbons saying, *"We're doing a class project on recognition, and want you to find somebody to honour with a blue ribbon, then give the extra blue ribbon so they can acknowledge a third person to keep this acknowledgment ceremony going. Then please report back and tell me what happened."*

Later the junior executive went to his boss who was a grouch. He told him he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. The junior executive then offered his boss a blue ribbon and placed it on his boss's jacket above his heart. He then gave him the last ribbon asking him to honour someone else? He said *"The young boy who gave me the ribbons is doing a project and wants to keep this recognition ceremony going and find out how it affects people."*

That night the boss came to his 14-year-old son and said, *"The most incredible thing happened to me today. One of the junior executives told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Imagine. He thinks I'm a creative genius. Then he put this blue ribbon that says 'Who I Am Makes a Difference'" above my heart. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody else to honour. Thinking about whom I would honour with this ribbon, I want to honour you."*

Often, I come home and pay little attention to you. I shout at you for not getting good enough grades and your bedroom being a mess, but tonight, I want to let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You're great and I love you!"

The startled boy started to sob and sob and couldn't stop. He looked at his father and said through his tears, *"I have been contemplating suicide, Dad, because I didn't think you loved me. Now I know you care."*

The boss went back to work a changed man. He was no longer a grouch but made sure to let all his employees know that they made a difference. The junior executive helped several other young people with career planning and never forgot to let them know they made a difference in his life. The young boy and his classmates learned a valuable lesson.

Who you are DOES make a difference – or, as Jesus says, ***you are salt and light!***

There's an email going around offering processed pork, gelatine and salt in a can. If you receive this email, don't open it. It's spam.

My head chef had his 10th anniversary in work today. I put some salt and pepper on him. He's a seasoned professional.