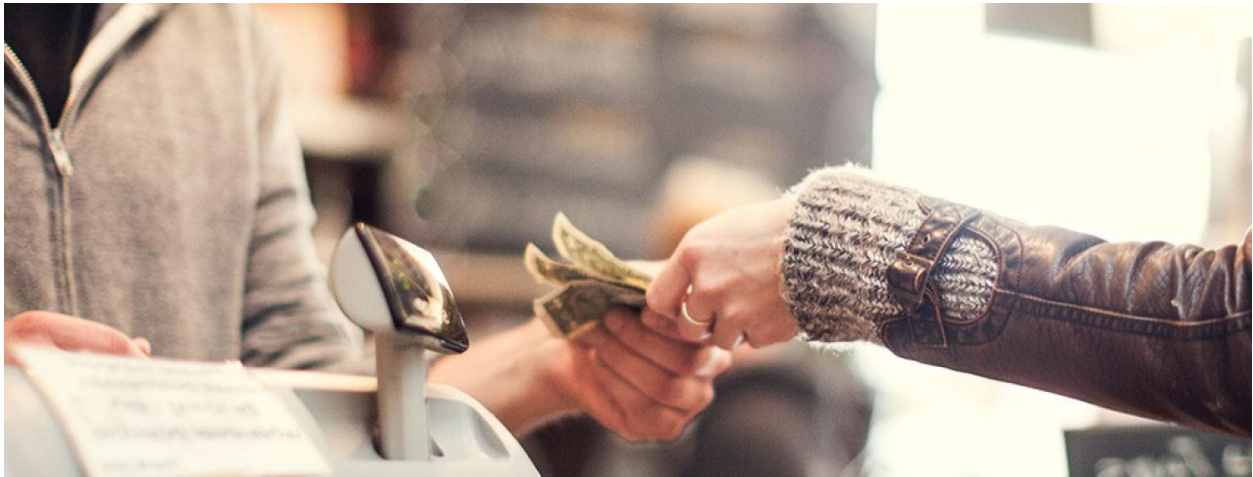


FaithBIT



Can I Keep All That Money?

Reflection by Cindy Paulson

First day of Sunday school and God Squad, and of course I get a late start. Ran to Cub to pick up my donut order and got in line for the only cashier that was open at 6am. The cashier was clearly annoyed, so I glanced at the customer she was waiting on. He had spread dollar bills and coins all over the grocery belt and was digging into his pockets clearly looking for more money. The cashier looked back at the building line of customers with exasperation on her face, and we all looked at each other with varying looks on our faces. I looked at the man more closely. He appeared to be an older man, looked disheveled, both he and his clothing were dirty with grass clippings on the back of his jacket.

The body language woman directly behind him suddenly changed as she reached into her purse and pulled out her wallet. She handed the cashier a \$20 and said, "I'd like to pay for his groceries." The cashier looked at her in astonishment, as did the man struggling to pay, who said, "All of it?" Like I can keep all this money?"



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to be reminded how
blessed we are.”

His face shined as he collected the assortment of one-dollar bills and meager coins, and then put his few items in a small bag. As he walked always with a bounce in his step he turned back, with his face shining, and shouted, "Thank you!" The woman moved up, and to no one—but everyone—said "Sometimes it's good to be reminded how blessed we are." The faces and body language of every person who witnessed and heard her softened.

A simple act intended to show kindness to someone experiencing homelessness had a profound effect on so many more.