

MISFIT

Bill wears the same shirt every day, pants with different length inseams, and boots he found in the dumpster down the alley. He became a Christian at a college prayer meeting, but struggles to change his drinking habit. He is quiet, kind of esoteric and very, very bright. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students, but are not sure how to go about it.

On this day, Bill is sleeping off his hangover at the back entrance to the church expecting the doors to open up. When he awakes to music, he walks around to the front. He enters with his usual attire and obvious stench. The service has already begun so Bill starts down the nearest aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find one. By now, people are a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet. Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this church before!



By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. The minister realizes that from the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill. The deacon is eighty years old, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. He is godly, not to mention very dignified--one of the founders of the church. He walks with a cane and, as he approaches Bill, everyone is thinking, 'You can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and background to understand some college kid who is sitting on the floor?'

It takes a long time for the deacon to reach Bill. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the deacon's cane. All eyes are focused on him. The minister can begin the sermon when the deacon does what he has to do. And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone. Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget." Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people ever read.

"...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Mt 25:40b

Author unknown

Picture source: www.americaslibrary.gov/pages/es_wv_bath_1.html