

## Essay from the bold pastor

### #163 - Christmas Story "A Hospitable Police Officer"

The Tarrant Police Department in Alabama received a call on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The caller said, "A woman has stolen a merchandise. Please come quickly." It was from a "One Dollar Store." "Not again!," the dispatcher exclaimed. The store calls in frequently for the same reason. Most of the shoplifters caught at this store don't steal out of desperation to make a living. Their excuses are usually something like "I 'borrowed' the cell phone charger because I left mine at home." This case, however, was a bit different. When a Tarrant police officer named William Stacy arrived at the scene, the suspect, Helen Johnson, was passing around the eggs she had just stolen to two of her daughters, her niece, and two of her grandchildren. When the officer asked her questions, she claimed they hadn't eaten anything since Thursday. Upon hearing that, Officer Stacy paid for the eggs instead of arresting her on the condition that she wouldn't steal again.

In a TV interview after the event, Johnson was still emotional and said, "Oh my God, thank you Jesus for this man." After returning to the police station, Officer Stacy contacted the local fire department asking them to provide support for the Johnson family. The organization runs a Christmas gift drive for children in need. Actually, a bigger help was underway. As it turns out, someone who happened to witness the incident recorded the whole deal and posted the video on Facebook. It went viral and got almost a million views, driving people across the US to send food supplies to the Johnsons. As a result, Officer Stacy was hailed as "the reincarnation of Angel."

***And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."***

***Luke 2:8-11***

This is a famous Christmas story in which an angel appears to poor shepherds and gives them "great news." We all become distressed or face challenges at times. However, God will send us help in such circumstances. And when you help others in need, you, too, become an angel.

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