

2 HOMELESS MEN, 2 DOGS & 10 PUPPIES

In the summer of 2019 I noticed a man and his dog “flying sign” near Walmart. The sign and the dog were like beacons calling out to me, so I stopped to investigate. Bryce (not his real name) said he was an Iraq war veteran who suffered from PTSD and his dog was an emotional support animal. I felt an immediate connection with him since I too have a family member suffering from PTSD, who also has an ESA dog.

By December I noticed that Bryce had teamed up with another man, Jared (not his real name), who also had a dog, Daisy (not her real name). One day I asked Bryce if Jared was also a veteran. He said no. He said he made a bad decision when he was 19 and spent 7 years in prison as a result. Both men were homeless and living in the woods in tents. He said that the reason they partnered up was so they could work opposite shifts at a local fast food restaurant. That way there would always be one person taking care of the dogs at any given time.

Since so many of the homeless seem to have drug and alcohol problems, I asked the guys if they smoked, drank, or did drugs. Jared said no, they didn't do any of that. He explained that the reason they had moved to this particular Walmart location was to get away from the homeless people doing drugs at the other Walmart location. Then he described all the needles on the ground at the other location. So I was quite impressed that they were staying away from drugs and alcohol and I admired the fact that they were both employed and trying to improve their situation.

I soon realized that getting enough to eat was their most pressing need. One day I drove to the local food bank and talked to the director about the 2 homeless men living in the woods. I asked her if there was anything that could be done to help them. She said that I could become their “proxy” and ferry food to them from the food bank. So that day, I became a “proxy” and began delivering groceries.

Over time Jared, the quiet one, began to open up to me about his past. He told me about abuse and trauma in his family and how he messed up as a kid. He told me how he was saved in prison. He said all he wanted in life was to have a place to stay, a bed to sleep in, go to church, and have a normal life. I started to really care about him. All I wanted to do was help him.

In January I remarked that Daisy seemed to be gaining a bit of weight. They sheepishly told me that she was actually pregnant. In March Daisy delivered 10 puppies in a tent in the woods. So 2 men, 2 unneutered dogs, and 10 puppies living in the woods! Whoa. It took me a while to wrap my brain around that one. I asked them their plan for the puppies. They said most of them they would give away, but each man wanted to keep a puppy.

One day Jared sent me a very disturbing text. He said that Bryce had beaten him up badly and he had left camp with only the clothes on his back and his dog. I found him standing on the side of the road

with Daisy. He was covered in dirt and bruises, brandishing a recent human bite mark on his arm, and an injured shoulder. So they hopped into my car, and we went searching for a motel. We quickly found a place and I went in to secure a room. The landlady told me that she had rules and no visitors after 10:30 pm. I told her that that Jared didn't smoke or drink. And we were only friends and that I had "rules" too. And I didn't think he would be a problem. So she gave him one of her good rooms at the front of the hotel.

A few days later I received a text from Jared that said 'Trouble at the motel last night'. That was it, no details. When I went to investigate, I learned that he had been kicked out of the good room and relegated to the "noisy" section at the back of the motel. Apparently the new puppy and Daisy were whining and disturbing the other patrons. The landlady informed me that Jared had a "smart mouth" on him and that he gave her all sorts of lip. I apologized to her and said that I would talk to him.

The next day I got another disturbing text from Jared. This time he told me that Daisy was going nuts being confined and was destroying the room. She had chewed through the air conditioner cord, gnawed on the end tables, and shredded the carpet near the door while he was at work. When I went to check out the situation, I noticed a strong smell of cigarette smoke in his room. I flat out asked him "Have you been smoking?" He told me "Oh no, it's coming from the bathroom vents. That's why I like to keep that door closed."

On 5/25/2020 I texted Jared during working hours and he responded right away. I said I was surprised at his quick response during work hours, and he said that he was 'on break'. Come to find out, he had actually quit his job the night before. When I asked him why he lied, he said "Technically, I did not lie. I danced around the truth." I have to admit, that made me laugh. I said "Well 'dancing man' if there was an intent to deceive, that would be a lie in my book". He then acknowledged the lie and said he was sorry. So as far as I was concerned the matter was closed and forgotten.

On 5/30/2020 upon waking I heard the Holy Spirit say "He will betray you". My understanding was that the 'he' the Lord was talking about was Jared, which was concerning to say the least.

That very day Jared returned some tools I had lent him in my zippered Costco grocery bag. Upon opening the bag, a big puff of cigarette smoke hit me right in the face. I was like, I think he smokes. A few hours later I ran into Bryce "flying sign" at Walmart. I asked him, does Jared smoke? He spilled the beans and gave me an earful about smoking and drinking and other things, which I won't divulge here. So again I asked Jared why he lied to me. This time he was offended and told me not to talk to him anymore. Then he called me a "moron" and some other choice names.

While I was trying to process all this, I suddenly remembered a vision that I had on 2/28/2020. In the vision I saw a woman talking to a man when suddenly the man turned his back to her. Then she stopped talking. At the time I had no idea what it meant, but now it made sense. Then I remembered a conversation I had with him concerning his puppy. I had asked him how he was going to keep the male puppy and Daisy from breeding. He told me that he didn't need to worry about it for at least 2 years. I said "Really? Cats mature at around 6 months. I would think dogs are the same." He assured me that

he had 2 years. Not convinced, I googled it. And sure enough, maturation for dogs is similar to cats – 6 months.

On 6/18/2020 I saw a vision of an older man and a younger man. The younger man was smoking. The older man grabbed his face and said “look at me” and the younger man blew smoke in his face.

On 6/29/2020 Jared contacted me again to say that he and the 2 dogs would soon be “camping” again. I asked why. He said that he had gotten a new job that he loved at a different restaurant. But when his new boss discovered that he had lied on his job application, he was fired. He said that he really needed a new job fast so he could afford to stay at the motel.

I wished him good luck on his job search. He said “Luck has nothing to do with it. I need Jesus to answer my prayers.” I said that habitual sin, like lying over and over, separates us from God and causes our prayers to not be answered. (Isaiah 59:2) I explained that repeated, willful sin is like a landing strip for the enemy, an open door for Satan to come in and attack you. Not only that, but it is like crucifying Christ over and over again. He died once for our sins. So when we are saved and He forgives us, then we are supposed to walk in His ways. Not continue in repeated, willful sin. Then I gave him Hebrews 10:26. I told him that he needed to repent. And I explained that repent means to turn away from wrongdoing once and for all; to just make up your mind to stop. Stop doing wrong and start doing right. And ask God for forgiveness. Then I gave him 1 John 1:9. Then he said “There is something God hates more than lying – hypocrisy.” I knew he was calling me a hypocrite, but I didn’t take the bait, just let the comment pass. A few days later, he sent me a text ‘Happy 4th of July’.

After this I asked the Lord what he thought about the whole situation with Jared. On 7/7/2020 the Lord gave me a vision. I saw a person coming up behind another person and putting a hood over his head. Then I heard the Holy Spirit say “HOODWINKED”. I looked up the definition. It means to deceive by false appearance or dupe.

Scriptures

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Proverbs 28:13 He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whosoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much worse punishment, suppose you, shall he be thought worthy, who has trodden underfoot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, with which he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has done insult unto the Spirit of grace?

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things does the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,18A heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to evil,19A false witness that speaks lies, and he that sows discord among brethren.