

"DON'T JUDGE ME JUST YET"

12-27-14: 7:10pm: WATCHING CNN NEWS

GOOD EVENING EVERYONE. I WAS INSPIRED TO TALK ABOUT STEREOTYPES BY A STORY ON CNN NEWS. I MISSED THE WHOLE NAME BUT THERE IS A PRETTY FAMOUS YOUTUBE PRANKSTER, HIS LAST NAME IS LIN, HE DID A SERIOUS UNDER COVER STORY. HE TOOK A \$100 BILL TO A HOMELESS MAN & GAVE IT TO HIM AND TOLD HIM IT'S HIS MONEY NOW. THEY SPOKE BRIEFLY, HUGGED, AND LIN LEFT. BUT WHAT THE HOMELESS MAN DIDN'T KNOW IS THAT LIN & HIS CAMERA MAN WERE FOLLOWING HIM. THEY FOLLOWED HIM TO A LIQUOR STORE WHERE THE MAN FILLED UP 2 BAGS WITH STUFF. THEY ASSUMED HE BOUGHT A TON OF ALCOHOL AND WAS GOING TO GET DRUNK. WHAT SURPRISED THEM WAS THAT THIS HOMELESS MAN WENT TO A LOCAL PARK WHERE OTHER HOMELESS PEOPLE WERE AND HANDED OUT FOOD. HE SPENT THAT MONEY ON FOOD AT THE LIQUOR STORE AND SHARED IT WITH EVERYONE ELSE. AFTER SEEING THAT, LIN CAME OUT OF HIDING & SPOKE TO THE HOMELESS MAN & EXPLAINED TO HIM WHAT HE HAD DONE. LIN APOLOGIZED TO HIM FOR THINKING HE WENT TO BUY ALCOHOL TO GET DRUNK, BUT WAS VERY SURPRISED THAT HE BOUGHT FOOD TO SHARE WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER PEOPLE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT A FUNDRAISING SITE WAS SET UP FOR HIS HOMELESS MAN & HAD RAISED OVER \$90,000 SO FAR.

LIN WENT INTO THIS WITH CURIOSITY & A STEREOTYPE IN HIS MIND BUT CAME OUT WITH A DIFFERENT OUTLOOK, A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON PEOPLE. MAYBE ONE DAY THIS WILL HAPPEN WITH PEOPLE IN PRISON & PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE. WE'RE ALL VIEWED AS VIOLENT CRIMINALS WHO SHOULD NEVER GET OUT. WE'VE SEEN IT, & HEARD IT THOUSANDS OF TIMES.

NOT EVERYONE IN PRISON IS BAD OR EVIL AND NOT EVERYONE ON THE OUTSIDE IS GOOD. I'M ONLY 38 YEARS OLD BUT AS I AGE & GROW AS A MAN, I TRY TO OPEN MY EYES TO THE PEOPLE AROUND ME. I ONCE KNEW A GUARD WHO HATED WORKING IN PRISON. HE LOVED THE MONEY (\$20+ AN HOUR) BUT HE HATED PRISONERS. WHATEVER HIS REASON WAS, HE HAS HATED ALL OF US. HE WORKED IN THE HOLE, SO WHEN IT WAS (HIS WORDS) FEEDING TIME FOR THE ANIMALS, HE WOULD SPIT IN A COUPLE OF GUYS FOOD. NO MATTER WHAT THEY DID, THESE MEN DID NOT DESERVE TO HAVE THEIR FOOD SPIT IN. EVENTUALLY THIS GUARD WAS CAUGHT ON CAMERA SPITTING IN A FEW PRISONERS FOOD TRAYS & WAS FIRED. HE HAD THE BELIEF THAT ALL PRISONERS WERE EVIL, WE ALL DESERVED TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS.

I SHAVE MY HEAD, A GUARD, ONE WHO DID NOT KNOW ME (SINCE I'M AT THIS NEW PRISON, NONE OF THE GUARDS KNOW ME) AND TOLD ME THAT I HAD TO PULL DOWN MY SWEAT PANTS TO COVER THE TOPS OF MY BLACK TIMBERLAND BOOTS. I'VE HAD THESE BOOTS FOR 15 YEARS, THEY ARE OLD & WORN. HE SAID THAT I LOOK LIKE A WHITE ARYAN MILITANT. I LOOKED AT HIM WITH CONFUSION & THEN LAUGHED AT HIM. HE SAID ALL WHITE GUYS IN PRISON WITH SHAVED HEADS ARE WANNABE SKIN HEADS. I HAD HAIR WHEN I WAS HOME. I HAD HAIR FOR MY TRIAL & MY FIRST FEW YEARS IN PRISON. I SHAVED MY HEAD MANY TIMES IN MY LIFE BUT ONE THING MY JUSTINE LOVED WAS MY HAIR. AFTER SHE WAS KILLED, I SHAVED IT AGAIN & HAVEN'T LET IT GROW BACK SINCE. AND I WILL KEEP IT BALD UNTIL THE DAY I DIE.

I'VE BEEN IN THIS NEW PRISON, SCI SMITHFIELD, FOR 24 DAYS NOW & I NEVER REALLY REALIZED HOW STRICT PRISON ACTUALLY IS IF THEY FOLLOW THE RULES, & BY RULES I MEAN EVERY SINGLE IDIOTIC RULE THAT SOMEONE MADE UP. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS NO HOT WATER IN THE CELLS HERE. SO IF I WANT HOT WATER FROM THE HOT WATER SPOUT AT THE WATER FOUNTAIN, I CAN ONLY GET IT IF I SKIP GOING TO EAT OR TO YARD. OR IF I WANT TO GIVE SOMEONE SOMETHING TO EAT, SAY A GUY MISSES BREAKFAST, OR DINNER, IF I GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO EAT, THEY CAN LOCK YOU UP. ALOT OF THESE RULES REALLY DO PROMOTE BAD BEHAVIOR, OR RULE BREAKING. I COULD GO ON & ON ABOUT THESE STUPID RULES BUT I WONT BITCH OR COMPLAIN TOO MUCH TODAY. RIGHT NOW MY FOCUS IS ON MY MOM. HER DOCTOR WANTED HER IN THE HOSPITAL IN 2 DAYS FOR CHEMO, HER BLOOD WORK WAS NOT VERY GOOD BUT THE HOSPITAL SAID WE HAVE NO BEDS SO SHE MUST WAIT. WHAT KIND OF A MEDICAL SYSTEM DO WE HAVE WHEN MY MOM HAS AML & IS FIGHTING FOR HER LIFE BUT THE HOSPITAL IN WILKES-BARRE HAS NO BEDS. HOW DOES A HOSPITAL HAVE NO BEDS? THIS JUST TELLS ME THAT THEY ARE NO COMMITTED TO HELPING TO SAVE MY MOMS LIFE. I WAS UP MOST OF THE NIGHT LAST NIGHT READING ABOUT LEUKEMIA. THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY IN BETHLEHEM, PA SENT ME A HUGE PACKET OF INFORMATION ON THIS CANCER & I JUST COULDN'T SLEEP. I HATED READING WHAT I READ. MADE ME THINK I'LL LOSE MY MOM FOR SURE. ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY & PRAY & PRAY THAT MY PRAYERS ARE HEARD. GIVE HER DISEASE TO ME, GIVE HER MY LIFE, THE REST OF THE YEARS I HAVE LEFT, GIVE THEM TO HER. I RUINED MY LIFE, I DON'T NEED THEM. AS MUCH AS I TRY, I TRULY WONDER IF I CAN EVER DO ANYTHING TRULY PRODUCTIVE WITH MY LIFE. SOMETIMES I DO STRUGGLE WITH THIS. WHY AM I DOING GOOD? WHY AM I TRYING TO CHANGE? WHY AM I TRYING TO BE A BETTER MAN? SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY. I HAVE A LIFE SENTENCE, WHY BOTHER. IT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER IF I JUST STOPPED CARING & WENT BACK TO BEING A SELFISH UNCARING ANIMAL THAT EVERY ONE SEEMS TO THINK ALL PRISONERS ARE. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, THATS NOT WHAT I WANT. THATS NOT WHO I WANT TO BE. I WANT TO BE SOMEONE MY FAMILY CAN BE PROUD OF, SOMEONE MY MOM CAN BE PROUD OF, THOUGH THEY ARE BURIED NOW, SOMEONE MY JUSTINE & NONNA CAN BE PROUD OF. I SEEK THE APPROVAL OF THOSE I LOVE.

I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE MISTAKES IN MY LIFE, I WILL NEVER BE PREFECT OR B.S. YOU & SAY I AM ANYTHING CLOSE TO PERFECT. I SIN EVERY DAY, I GET ANGRY EVERY DAY, AND ALL THESE YEARS LATER, I STILL HAVE TEARS IN MY EYES EVERY DAY. BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD LIFE GETS, I WILL CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE FORWARD, NO MATTER HOW MUDDY THE ROAD IS, NO MATTER HOW MANY OBSTACLES I RUN INTO, I WILL MOVE FORWARD. ONE DAY I WILL BE A MAN THAT I AM PROUD OF. I WILL NEVER BE PROUD OF THE MISTAKES I MADE BUT I WILL LEARN FROM THEM SO THAT I CAN BE PROUD OF WHO I AM THAT DAY, WHENEVER THAT DAY COMES. EVERY DAY I ASK MYSELF CERTAIN QUESTIONS & EVERY DAY THEY REMAIN UNANSWERED. BUT I WONT GIVE UP. I WILL LEAVE YOU WITH THAT FOR THIS WEEK. THIS IS MY LAST POST FOR 2014, BY THE TIME THIS IS UP, IT WILL BE 2015, SO I WISH YOU'S ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR. TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE, ENJOY THE NEW YEAR, & GOD BLESS. I WOULD LIKE TO DO MORE WITH MY LIFE, ANY IDEAS? DON'T JUDGE ME JUST YET, I STILL MIGHT SURPRISE YOU. CIAO.

SAINT DISMAS HOLY NAME SOCIETY
