

Putting on an Old Suit

British statesman and financier Cecil Rhodes (1853 – 1902), whose fortune acquired from diamond mining in Africa endowed the world-famous Rhodes Scholarships, was known as a stickler for correct dress – but not at the expense of someone else’s feelings.



A devotional in *Today in the Word* published by Moody Bible Institute reported that Rhodes invited a young man to an elegant dinner at his home. The guest had to travel a great distance by train and arrived in town only in time to go directly to Rhodes’ home in his travel-stained clothes.

Once there, he was distressed to find that dinner was ready to begin and the other guests were gathered in their finest evening clothes. Rhodes, however, was nowhere to be seen.

Moments later, Rhodes appeared in a shabby old blue suit. The young man later learned that his host had been dressed in evening clothes, but put on the old suit when he heard of his guest’s embarrassment.

Rabbi Samuel Holdenson captured the spirit behind Rhodes’ gesture, writing:

Kindness is the inability to remain at ease in the presence of another person who is ill at ease, the inability to remain comfortable in the presence of another who is uncomfortable, the inability to have peace of mind when one’s neighbor is troubled.

Associates in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have discovered this truth: The simplest act of kindness not only affects the receiver in profound ways, but brings blessings to the giver as well. It makes us feel good to make others feel good.

As you go about your responsibilities today, look for opportunities to commit random acts of kindness.

And in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love (2 Peter 1:7 NASB).

– Beecher Hunter