

Reacting to a Crying Baby

Several years ago, a Santa Fe train was speeding through Oklahoma. In one of the coaches sat a young woman desperately trying to take care of a restless baby, whose crying was evidently annoying some of the passengers.

Across the aisle sat a heavily built fellow, a picture of comfort and rich living. He scowled at the woman and eventually shouted: "Can't you keep that child quiet?"

Upon taking a further look at the young lady, he noticed that her dress was one of mourning.

Then he heard her reply gently, "I cannot help it. The child is not mine. I am doing my best."

"Where is its mother?" asked the portly passenger.

"In her coffin, sir," answered the young lady, "in the baggage car up ahead."

The steely eyes of the fat fellow filled with tears.

He got up, took the baby in his arms, kissed it, and then walked up and down the aisle with the child, trying his best to soothe the motherless child and make up for his harshness.

The story is a reminder that we human beings are prone to make snap judgments about others. We never know what kind of personal mountain someone may be climbing, whether financial, grief, depression, uncertainty, illness, fear or extreme loneliness.

Our lives are better spent in a spirit of love, compassion and service.

Jesus is speaking in Luke 6:37: "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you shall be forgiven."

– Beecher Hunter

