

Riding with an Old Man

A wealthy Jewish merchant treated a poor old man with rudeness and disdain as they traveled together on a train.

When they arrived at their common destination, the merchant found the station thronged with pious Jews waiting in exuberant joy to greet the arrival of one of the holiest rabbis in Europe. He soon learned, to his chagrin, that the old man with whom he shared his compartment was that saintly rabbi.

Embarrassed at his disgraceful behavior and distraught that he missed a golden opportunity to speak in privacy to a wise and holy man, the merchant pushed his way through the crowd to find the old man.

When he reached him, he begged the rabbi's forgiveness and requested his blessing.

The old rabbi looked at him and replied, "I cannot forgive you. To receive forgiveness, you must go out and beg it from every poor old person you meet."



What does the story suggest? That we should love and respect others – the elderly, in particular.

Thankfully, we in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have that opportunity every day: to love, respect *and* serve others.

As in the case of the rabbi, the elderly who are our customers have wisdom and life lessons from which we can benefit. Many of them have walked spiritual paths that can teach us much.

And I use the word *thankfully* because God has given us a great responsibility, but His assignment shows that He has trust that we can fulfill our Lord's calling. That should bring a deep sense of personal satisfaction.

– Beecher Hunter