

The Janitor Was Fired

Somerset Maugham, the English writer, once wrote a story about a janitor at St. Peter's Church in London. One day, a young vicar discovered that the janitor was illiterate and fired him.

Jobless, the man invested his meager savings in a tiny tobacco shop, where he prospered, bought another, expanded, and ended up with a chain of tobacco stores worth several hundred thousand dollars.

On one occasion, the man's banker said, "You've done well for an illiterate, but where would you be if you could read and write?"

"Well," replied the tobacco shops' owner, "I'd be janitor of St. Peter's Church in Neville Square."

The story is instructive. The measure of a person's character is determined by how we respond to circumstances – deemed either good or bad – that pop up on the road of life.

Sometimes, it takes a significant blow to knock us out of the rut of routine, and to consider what could be.

--Beecher Hunter