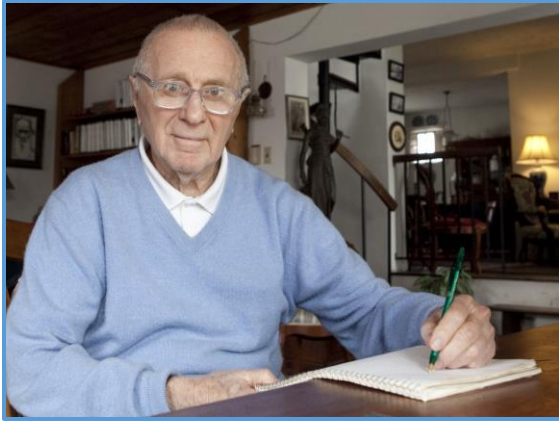


## The Weight of a \$2 Theft



For most of his life, Dr. Joseph Linsk has carried the weight of a secret. At age 94, he decided to let go of it.

As a boy of 8, he broke the eyeglasses of a classmate. It was an accident; he hadn't meant to do it. But done it was.

Parents were sure to be notified, and the glasses would have to be replaced. They cost \$2.

Young Linsk, terrified of the trouble that could result, paid the \$2 to replace the broken glasses.

And this is where the story begins.

The Linsk family employed a woman named Pearl. She was paid \$2 each week to clean their home. On Fridays, Linsk's mother would leave the money for Pearl to collect after her work was done

On the day Linsk stole the wage to square his debt, Pearl asked for her pay when she did not find it in its usual spot.

Mrs. Linsk became angry and accused Pearl of lying. Pearl lost her job that day and gained the reputation of a thief. Word spread, and no family in the neighborhood would employ her.

Linsk doesn't remember Pearl's last name nor what happened to her. He does recall that she had several children.

That was 86 years ago. Linsk has never forgotten what he's done, and he never admitted it until now.

Although Pearl is no longer with us, Linsk would like to make amends. Maybe her heirs would be willing to hear an apology and bestow their forgiveness.

For us, what are the lessons we learn from his story. Several, including ...

- Crime – even the theft of \$2, which was huge at the time – doesn't pay. In some form or another, there are consequences.
- Our actions, for good or for bad, have the potential to significantly impact the lives of others. We ought to be circumspect about our speech or our actions.
- Guilt exacts its own toll, and confession can bring healing.

(more)

So the question for today is ... Do you need to seek forgiveness from someone – or offer yours to another?

*And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses (Mark 11:25 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter