

Essay form the bold pastor

#174 - A Man Who Walked 21 Miles to Work Every Day for 10 Years -

“Who on earth would do that?” A hard-to-believe news came from the American Northeast during an enormous cold wave and moved the entire nation to tears. James Robertson is a factory worker in Detroit. His car broke down 10 years ago, and he was walking 21 miles to and from work every day since. Even more surprising, he was never late to work and maintained perfect attendance. He worked from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. for \$10.55 per hour with no overtime. It was no surprise that he barely made ends meet and could not afford buying another car.

A student at Wayne State University, Evan Leedy, read about Robertson and started a fundraiser for him online. The drive raised \$300,000-plus, which far exceeded the initial goal of \$5,000. There is more to this story. A local car dealership was impressed by Robertson and gave him a new car. This news was broadcast in two parts, and the second segment captured the moment Robertson picked up the car from the dealership. However, he rushed out in the middle of the event saying, “I’m gonna be late for work.”

“Walking back from work was more exhausting than going to work,” Robertson recalls. After finishing his shift at 10 p.m., he would walk 7 miles to the nearest bus stop, get on a bus around 1 a.m., walk another 4 miles to his home after getting off the bus. By the time, he gets home, it’s already 4 o’clock in the morning. He would get a little sleep and then another day starts again. As I am writing this, Detroit is experiencing a cold wave and the temperature is down to 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Besides, Detroit is known as “the most dangerous city in the U.S.” In fact, he has been attacked while walking through Highland Park, the most ghetto area, in his 4-mile-walk from the bus stop to home.

Vindicate me, Lord, for I have led a blameless life; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered. Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

Psalm 26:1-3

This is a cry that David, the king of Israel, let out when he was falsely accused. In Hebrew, the same word is used both for “to walk” and “to live.” Life is full of ups and downs. At times, we face challenges every day and feel like there is no light at the end of the tunnel. Yet, when we keep at our jobs, rain or shine, God will help us. How wonderful is God!

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