

**Essay from the bold pastor
#247 - This meal is on the police -**

On July 5th, 2015 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a black man was held down and fatally shot by two white police officers. Just a day later in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, another black man was stopped by a police officer while driving, was shot, and killed. Shocking videos of both incidents spread all over the nation, and in the midst of protests everywhere on July 7th, five police officers on guard-duty for one such protest in Dallas, Texas were shot and killed by a black veteran who had served in Afghanistan. The veteran had previously expressed his desire to kill white people. After a few hours of failed negotiation to surrender, he was killed by an explosive device remote-controlled by the police.

The next evening on July 8th in a restaurant in Homestead, Pennsylvania, a couple came into a restaurant where four policemen were dining. The man took a quick glance at the officers in uniform and said "Nah, I don't want to sit here," and asked for a different seat. Although the couple's new seat was not visible from the officers, the eatery was filled with a tense atmosphere.

The officers counteracted the rude encounter with an act of kindness. When the couple got their check, there was a handwritten note on it: "Sir, your check was paid for by the police officers you didn't want to sit next to. Thank you for your support." As the officers left, the man smiled with gratitude toward them. Officer Thomas, one of the four policemen, said afterward, "We're here for you, we work for the public. And we just want to better the relationship between the community and the police." He reminds me of this verse:

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction."

2 Timothy 4:2

As the world seems filled with heavy air, it is easy for us to avoid expressing our true feelings. But let's remember that Jesus died on the cross for us. The price for our sins have been paid already, and our relationship with God has been restored. I am once again filled with courage that even I can do something for the world.

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