**ONE PERSON**

***The Right Person in The Right Place at The Right Time***

“The sun did not shine, it was too wet to play,
so we sat in the house all that cold, cold wet day.
I sat there with Sally, we sat there, we two,
And I said, ‘How I wish we had something to do!”

Thus began the book *The Cat In The Hat* by a man named Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss. That book was written in 1957 as a challenge by a children’s book publisher to write a primer for first graders that overcame the very boring Dick and Jane books that kids had been reading since 1930. Mr. Geisel was 50 years old when given this challenge and he struggled for two years to make 200 simple age-related words come to life and spark fun in reading using the natural imagination of a first grader. It was an instant hit.

Dr. Seuss went on to write such classics as *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (1957), *Green Eggs and Ham* (1960 – my favorite – “I do not like green eggs and ham, I do not like them Sam I Am”), *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* (1960), and *Dr. Seuss’s ABC’s* (1963 – which I read to my kids about 6,789 times, often turning it into a song to change the pace … try reading it to the tune of Baa Baa Black Sheep, it works great!).

Dr. Seuss wrote 60 books in his career which sold over 700,000,000 copies, making him one of the greatest children’s authors in history. Trust me, having grown up on “See Dick. See Dick run. Run Dick run,” it was a breath of fresh air to go to the library and read books like *Horton Hears A Who* (1954), or “*And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*” (Dr. Seuss’s first children’s book in 1937 – which has now been sadly banned by our “woke” Cancel Culture).

Why am I talking to you about Dr. Seuss books, and what does a Cat, or Horton, or Sam I Am have to do with spiritual values? Here’s why and here’s what. I got to thinking about how one person impacted the lives of millions by sparking the imagination of an entire generation of children. I was pondering how one person can make a difference. That got me thinking about another famous Dr. Seuss quote: “To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.” I have loved that quote for so long that I have used it as the signature sign-off at the end of all my emails for many years.

According to the World Population Clock at the very minute of this writing there are 7,929,019,777 people on planet earth. Sometime in 2023 there will be 8 Billion souls! How many of them *know* you? A better question would be, how many of them *care* about you? If you stop and think about it you might cry. You might think of yourself as a mere ant in a world of ant-eaters; a nobody to 99.999999 % of this planet. Doesn’t that make you feel warm and fuzzy all over? Yeah, me too.

That is why, especially during this Covid crisis, the suicide rate has hit an all-time high among all age brackets. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) reported at least 40 percent of adults in the U.S. struggled with anxiety, depression, trauma and substance use since Covid-19 first broke in March of 2020. That has led to a rise in suicidal thoughts, along with a rise in attempts, leading to a rise in actual deaths. Those statistics are being found in countries all over the world. Something has to be done. Let me rephrase that, ***someone*** has to do something. So I repeat Dr. Seuss:

“To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.”

This quote is not from any of his books, but from his wit and wisdom. It speaks to how one person, no matter how small and insignificant you may be in the big scheme of things, have the potential to be the most important person in the whole world to someone who needs a friend. You, and perhaps only you, have the ability to impact a particular person’s life right now. Someone in your circle of influence is at this moment living with doubt, distress, discouragement or depression. You, and perhaps only you, are in a position to see the light at the end of their tunnel. God has you in the right place at the right time with the right person to change their world.

Here is another famous quote written almost 2,000 years ago that still rings true:

“*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith*” (Gal. 6:10).

It’s a quote from God in heaven to you on earth. You have “*opportunity*” in someone’s life to “*do good*” to them or for them. They are right now thinking 7 billion 929 million humans on earth don’t care one thing about them. If they died no one would mourn.

Which means it is up to you.

In another book, *The Lorax*, Dr. Seuss offers this thought-provoking rhyme:

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

But in a book that is not as poetic, but is far more inspirational, we hear the words of a man who helped many souls find meaning to their life. One night, after an earthquake, a soldier in Philippi was suicidal. With sword in hand he was about to end his life. But, at midnight, because someone cared, he became the happiest man on earth! Paul was in the right place, at the right time, before the right man (Acts 16:25-34).

A short time later he received this letter from Paul’s hand: “*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy … because I have you in my heart*…” (Phil. 1:3-11). The jailer, hearing those words, surely cried a flood of tears, remembering how his life had been changed for eternity because one person cared.

As you go through this day take a moment to think this thought: “Someone may need me today.” Ask God to open a door of opportunity for you (Col. 4:2), then have eyes to see that open door and step through it to make a difference in someone’s broken life.

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