

My name is Bob Wilson. I have lived in Quincy for over 40 years.

Luke's account of meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus is very powerful.

This reading reminds me of many people in my life who have been loving, kind examples of the love Jesus has for all of us if we are open to Him in our lives.

In my relationship with Jesus, I have had many wonderful people who have brought Jesus to me on my journey of faith, in so many real ways.

I would like to tell you about just 2 of them. They both helped form my relationship with Jesus. The first was my God-mother. She was my mother's oldest sister, who never married. She was a teacher and principal in the Boston Public School System. Within my family, she was the rock. Her one brother and four sisters knew that if they needed her she would always be there to offer her help and guidance.

My God-mother loved talking to me about the many things that I sold in my career. Like Cleopas in the Emmaus reading, she would ask me many questions. As I would be telling her about some "great sale", that I had made she would ask questions that would help me to think differently about how I should treat the people I worked with and the people to whom I was selling my products. She would remind me that no matter where I was-whether in Boston or another part of the country I would be successful if I prayed before I made the sales call. So often I would be told that a particular buyer was "very tough" and "you'll never make the sale". Many times I did not make the sale, but when I prayed before and after my visit to the account, I felt satisfied that I had done my best and in the end it helped me be a better person in my professional life.

The second person who helped my on my faith journey by conveying God's love to me was my God-father. He was also a person who lived the single life in order that he could care for his mother and aunt who lived with him. In addition to his family, he also helped countless other people in many ways- both spiritually and financially. My God-father was "tuition aid" to many people in his lifetime. He was also a man who's belief in God was reflected in how gentle and loving he was not only to his mother and aunt, but to all his family and friends.

As for me, I was his car cleaning person long before I was old enough to get a driving license. He would regularly leave his car for me to clean and he would take the T to work. Now cleaning the car was OK , but taking it for a ride around the neighborhood that was very special for a 12-13 year old.

One day as I tooted around Castle Island I forgot to stop at a stop sign. Next thing you know the men in blue wanted to have a chat with me. I gave them the registration for the car but they also wanted to see my driver's license. When I told them I did not have one, they were not very happy. Now you can imagine—my mind is racing—will they put me in jail? Will they tell my mother? Jail might be better!!!!!!

Fortunately, for me they decided to call my God-father. He asked that they take me home—just drop me off - and he would take care of my punishment.

On the one hand, I'm thanking God, on the other hand I'm wondering,

WILL I EVER GET TO CLEAN THE CAR AGAIN??

WILL I GET TO DRIVE IT AGAIN??

WHAT WILL MY PUNISHMENT BE?

Much to my surprise, when my God-father came home, he said, "Let's go get an Ice Cream. As we drove he said, "I'm sure you learned a good lesson today." I realized how lucky I was to have this man as my God-father and how Jesus worked through him in all of his dealings with me.

Both of my God-parents were very humble—faith filled people. Both understood "Blessed are the meek", because the meek allow God to work through them. I know my faith journey was strengthened by the love and guidance I received from them.

I ask that we now take a few moments to consider people who have helped us on our journey of faith to realize Jesus' Love and Forgiveness in our lives.