



Litterbug

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power (1 Corinthians 2:4–5 TNIV).

By Cheryl Mattil

While shopping together one day, my then five-year-old daughter and I came upon a woman who was putting a piece of gum into her mouth. The woman proceeded to unceremoniously toss her gum wrapper on the ground.

My daughter was visibly appalled and loudly stated her protest. "Mommy, did you see that? She threw that trash on the ground. That's wrong. That's littering."

As my daughter continued to sound off, I tried to shush her. But after contemplating the situation, I changed my mind. My five-year old simply said what I should have said. After all, wasn't I the one who was always preaching against littering?

God gave me a very real lesson of walking-the-walk in my daughter's actions that day. The Holy Spirit reminded me at that moment of my need to stand up for Jesus as openly as my daughter spoke out against litter.

My Jesus lived, died, and rose again for me — not for me only, but for all. Yes, even for a gum-wrapper litterbug. Out of thankfulness to Him for the blood-bought gift of salvation, let me not hesitate to talk-the-talk, sounding off the Good News and sharing His love with those whose paths cross mine.

My daughter boldly stated her protest because she knew she was right. She held her ground. As situations arise, may the Holy Spirit place the words in my mouth so that I can, with unwavering boldness, preach a Risen Christ to a sin-littered world.

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Romans 10:15 ESV).



btw... btw is the acronym for "by the Way (Jesus)." It sets the tone for the current issue.