

Between You and Me x 2

By Monty Carter

Seeing Dead People

Empathy is the ability to feel what another person is going through. To “walk in their shoes,” so to speak. It is marked by compassion. We can all intellectually acknowledge what another is experiencing, but not all of us empathize with them. Empathy can be taught and cultivated. If we grow up in a home lacking empathy, it doesn’t mean we are doomed to continue down the path of indifference. Narcissists and psychopaths are usually incapable of empathy.

Americans can be hard on one another. Something flashes on social media or the news about a famous person, and we are quick to point a finger. We may even pronounce judgment without context or even knowing the person in question personally. Think about that for a moment. All of us have done something wrong or bad at least once in life. What if that single moment was spread across social media? The rush to judgment would negate everything good we have done. However, the people who know us best would be more understanding and wait for the facts to come out.

If you are 50 years or older, you might remember the name of Richard Jewell. Nearly 30 years ago, Jewell was working security at the Olympics in Atlanta. He found a suspicious backpack in a very crowded Centennial Park and reported it to authorities. His actions saved countless lives. The backpack did explode, and while 1 person was killed and over 100 were injured, the damage and loss of life could have been much worse. He was hailed as a hero for a short time. The FBI began to investigate Richard. And while they never named him as a suspect, the media played judge and jury:

“Atlanta Journal-Constitution reporter Kathy Scruggs reported that he was

being eyed as a possible suspect after an FBI source leaked information on the investigation to her, Vanity Fair reported....The New York Post called him both “a Village Rambo” and “a fat, failed former sheriff’s deputy,” according to Vanity Fair. Meanwhile TV Host Jay Leno said, “What is it about the Olympic Games that brings out big, fat stupid guys?” (excerpt from story by reporter Gina Tron)

His life was ruined. The media villified and crucified him. Nearly 90 days later, the FBI dismissed Jewell as a suspect, but they did not offer an apology. It was too late; by this time, he was the media’s poster child. He wasn’t fully exonerated until 2005 when serial bomber Eric Rudolph confessed to the Olympic bombing. According to reporter Gina Tron: “One year after the bombing (‘97), U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno apologized for the FBI leak, stating, ‘I’m very sorry it happened. I think we owe him an apology. I regret the leak,’ CNN reported.” Jewell died in 2007 at the young age of 45 due to complications from diabetes.

What if the AJC reporter had waited to confirm what she had heard about him being a possible suspect? What if the media had waited for the facts instead of rushing to judgment? What if our current social media were available in 1996? Richard Jewell’s innocence was proven, and he was a hero.

Jesus was full of empathy. Over and over, the words in red within the New Testament validate it. He had compassion on those who were vilified by the culture of His days in flesh: A despised tax collector, a scandalous woman was allowed to anoint his feet, the woman at the well marred in sexual sin, noted sinners, the sick (many deemed unclean by Jewish Law) with leprosy, paralysis, the demonized, women and children never

missed his captivating gaze and life changing salvation.

Matthew 9:36 is probably the best description of his empathy: “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” This is the heart of empathy. Despite his full standing as God in the flesh, Jesus had compassion upon the broken, hurting, and wounded like no one before him. He didn’t wield his eternal power to enrich himself. Quite the opposite, he washed his disciples’ dirty feet as a model of how they were to live after his death.

As a lifelong high empath, I get this. In the movie, “The Sixth Sense,” Haley Joel Osment plays a troubled child who sees a psychologist played by Bruce Willis. His problem is, “I see dead people.” Everywhere he went in the flesh, Jesus saw dead people. People who were spiritually dead despite their state in life. Whether rich, poor, despised, successful, or a mess, Jesus saw the state of their soul. At the beginning of the first Easter upon his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his empathy comes full circle:

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hid-

den from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.” (Luke 19:41-44)

This is total empathy. He laments and cries over the sin of his people. Note his empathy isn’t a free pass. There are uncompromising boundaries and expectations within his compassion. You must come first as a sinner, humble and begging for the gift of salvation.

How’s your empathy level? Are we always rushing to the judgment of others while ignoring our failings and sins? Are we simply offering an unbiased ear to the people we know who are in pain or trouble? Do we jump on the bandwagon when others at work, in the news, or our social circles attack the Richard Jewells around us?

A great question for self-reflection: Am I so filled with the love of Christ that I see dead people and want them to know there is another way? Think of how you want to be treated during life’s gut-filled moments and then act accordingly. We will never regret extending healthy empathy to another. Their response is up to them.

Agape, Monty

GRADD Opens Nominations For Women’s 50 Over 50 Nominations

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is proud to announce the call for nominations for its Women’s 50 Over 50 awards — an initiative dedicated to honoring women over the age of 50 who have demonstrated notable public service across the region.

GRADD is seeking to spotlight individuals from the seven counties we serve: Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster. We’re looking for women whose dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on their communities. This award celebrates the spirit, contributions, and commitment of women who continue to shape and strengthen the Green River area.

“In 2022, I was at a public airport when I saw the Forbes ‘50 Over 50’ list celebrating high-achieving women in our nation,” says GRADD Executive Director Joanna Shake. “I wanted to replicate that regionally to honor civically engaged women in public service and non-profit work within our communities.”

These women are often pillars of their communities, known for their tireless work and passion to serve others. They inspire those around them by demonstrating the power of continued leadership at every stage of life.

Honorees will be featured in GRADD’s official “50 Over 50” publication and recognized during a special celebratory luncheon in March 2026.

Nominations are now open and will be accepted through July 11, 2025. Community members are encouraged to submit nominations for women who exemplify the qualities outlined above.

For more information and to submit a nomination, please visit the link 50 over 50 Nomination Form

PUBLIC NOTICE

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**
Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the City of Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky, Case No. 24-04-3544P. The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) solicits technical information or comments on proposed flood hazard determinations for the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. The FIRM and, if applicable, the FIS report have been revised to reflect these flood hazard determinations through issuance of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), in accordance with Title 44, Part 65 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information on the proposed flood hazard determinations and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit FEMA’s website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp , or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH KRS 91A.040, A COPY OF THE COMPLETE AUDIT REPORT FOR UNION COUNTY SHERIFF’S 2023 TAX ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION IS ON FILE AT THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE AND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 8:00AM TO 4:00 PM. THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 100 WEST MAIN STREET, MORGANFIELD, KY. ANY CITIZEN MAY OBTAIN FROM THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE AUDIT REPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION, FOR THEIR PERSONAL USE. ANY CITIZEN REQUESTING A COPY OF THE AUDIT REPORT WILL BE CHARGED FOR DUPLICATION COSTS AT A RATE THAT SHALL NOT EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER PAGE. THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT THAT IS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH KRS 424.220 IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT NO COST AT THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE AT 100 WEST MAIN STREET, MORGANFIELD, KY 42437.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A request for proposal for a Project 25 Public Safety Radio System will be received by the Union County Fiscal Court at the Union County Judges Office, 100 West Main Street, Morganfield, Kentucky 42437, until 8:30 a.m. Central Standard Time on Thursday July 10, 2025, at which time they will be opened in the county courtroom located on the 2nd floor of the courthouse and publicly read aloud.
The Contract Documents, including technical specifications and drawings, may be examined at the following locations:
**Union County Judges Office,
100 West Main Street
Morganfield, KY 42437**
Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Union County Judge’s Office, 100 West Main Street Morganfield, Kentucky 42437 or by emailing Jill Hunley at jill.hunley@unioncountky.gov.
The Union County Fiscal Court shall reserve the right to waive informalities and to reject any or all RFPs. 6/25c

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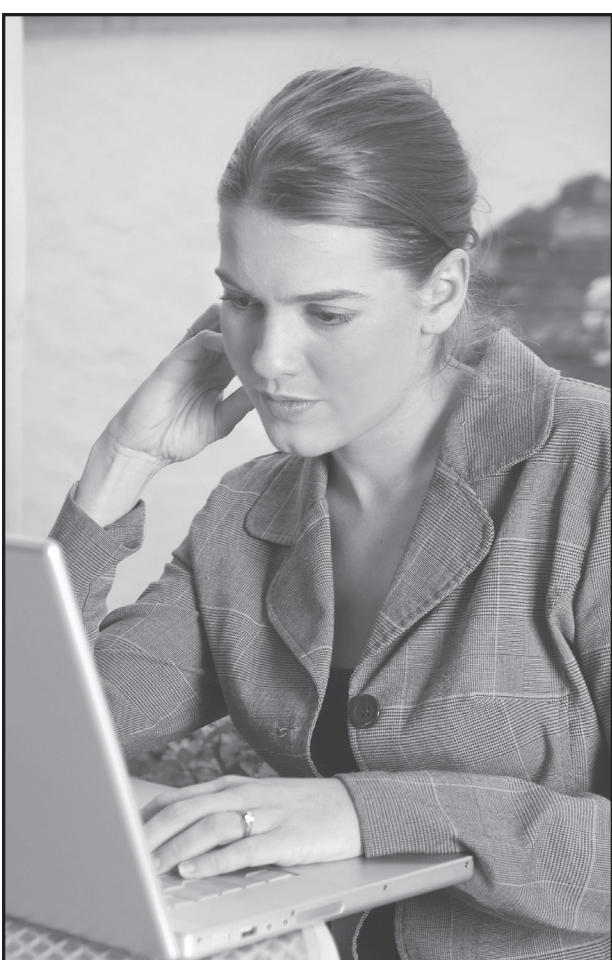
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