

This really happened inside the walls, in the Jackson, Michigan prison, in the 1980s.

I was coming in from work and climbed the steps to go to first gallery. On the bulkhead were several phones. This one big guy was yelling into the phone, as I walked past him he yelled, "Get me that money, B—!" As I passed him, I continued down the gallery to my cell. A few minutes later, the guy who had been on the phone returned to his cell, which was across from and one gallery above me. I would not have paid much attention, but all of a sudden he yelled to someone down the rock, "My mother will get that money to me today—I just told her."

I think a chill went through me at that moment. How could a guy talk to his own mother like that? Not only to scream at her, but to call her that name and to demand money?

This guy, although I never even knew his name, smoked a lot of weed, and back then, a lot of heroin was going around too. I knew he was using whatever he could find.

A few weeks later, my family came to visit me and sitting just two tables from us was that guy with a short, gray-haired lady. I'd guess she was about 80 years old. Even in the visiting room the guy kept raising his voice to the lady. At one point, he yelled, "You're my mother; you're supposed to take care of me." I looked up and saw tears rolling down her face, as he kept bringing up money and continued to talk loudly to her.

This is over 20 years later. I still remember the story—how sad it is!

What about you? How do you treat your parents, your husband or wife, your kids, your friends, or your relatives? Are you treating them the way you'd want them to treat you? Doing things your way is what got you in prison! Doing things your way will send you to hell one day, too! God's ways are better; God's ways are showing love. Do you know God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for your sins? God told us in the Bible, the only way to Him is through Jesus Christ—the only way to stay out of hell. And once you learn about God and His love, the more you will love and respect others. Turn to Christ today!

HOPE BEGINS WITH KNOWING JESUS AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR

It is possible to have a complete assurance that you are going to heaven. The Bible says, I John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

What must you do to know you are going to heaven?

1. You are a sinner and do not deserve to go to heaven.

Rom. 3:10 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."

Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

2. The only way to pay for your sins yourself is by spending eternity in hell.

Rom. 6:23 a "For the wages of sin is death... " Rev. 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. "

3. You cannot do anything good enough to earn your way to heaven.

Titus 3:5a "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us..."

Eph 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. "

4. Believe Jesus died to pay the price for your sins.

Rom. 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

5. Believe that Jesus not only died but rose again from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:3-4 "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: "

6. Know that Jesus freely offers forgiveness for your sins.

Rom.. 6:23b "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

7. Repent and turn from your sin to Christ.

Acts 3:19a "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."