

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

33 ***“She asked three times—and no one heard her!”***

Supper-time with two adults and six growing youngsters around one large table was interesting! (Some would probably use other words to describe it.) But it was one of the most joyous times of our family life. And a time we often learned from one another.

I sat at one end and their mother Ellie at the other. One evening our youngest daughter who was about three at the time, was seated at my right hand. After we said the blessing the food began to flow and the conversation began to grow. Gradually, the din grew louder and louder, which was familiar, but still noisy.

Suddenly I realized our three year old was calmly crawling out of her chair, walking across the table and picking up the butter dish! I, of course, started to come unglued! But one of the older boys stopped me when he came to her defense: ***“She asked three times—and no one heard her!”***

I learned we all want to be heard. We want someone to listen, whether we are three or thirty or ninety years old. We need someone to hear us and listen to us even if we are the least significant in the eyes of the world.

The lesson was reinforced years later when I unconsciously opened a friend’s car door in anticipation of getting out when he was finished. He stopped in midsentence and announced abruptly, “Goodbye!” “You weren’t through”, I protested. He answered simply, “You were!”

It takes a little effort, but it does pay to listen when others speak!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin