



# CARON

## CARROLL AS FOR ME AND MY COMMUNITY



[Click to Reach Caron](#)

## HUDSON'S HEART

A child's response to loving a homeless person truly shows a compassionate heart. I spent the day with my oldest grandchild, Hudson, in October of last year, for his eighth birthday. We had just left a sporting goods store, where I'd bought him a pair of boots for deer camp and a camouflage jacket. We were so excited about spending the day together and our planned adventures.

On our way to the grocery store, I drove across the street and passed a homeless man standing on the side

of the road. My heart breaks for the homeless, but it was my grandson who took notice of the desolate man.

"Nan, we need to give the homeless man some money for food, he said passionately."

Leaving the grocery store, I gave Hudson some money. As we drove towards the man, I recommended he roll his window down and tell him, "God bless you."

"OK, Nan", he said with a cute grin.

33 | As for Me and My House



COMMUNITY

We approached the man, and Hudson handed him the money. He said, "God bless you," and I began to pull away, telling Hudson that it's the heart of God to have compassion for the poor. There is a scripture, Matthew 25:40, that says,

---

**"WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME."**

---

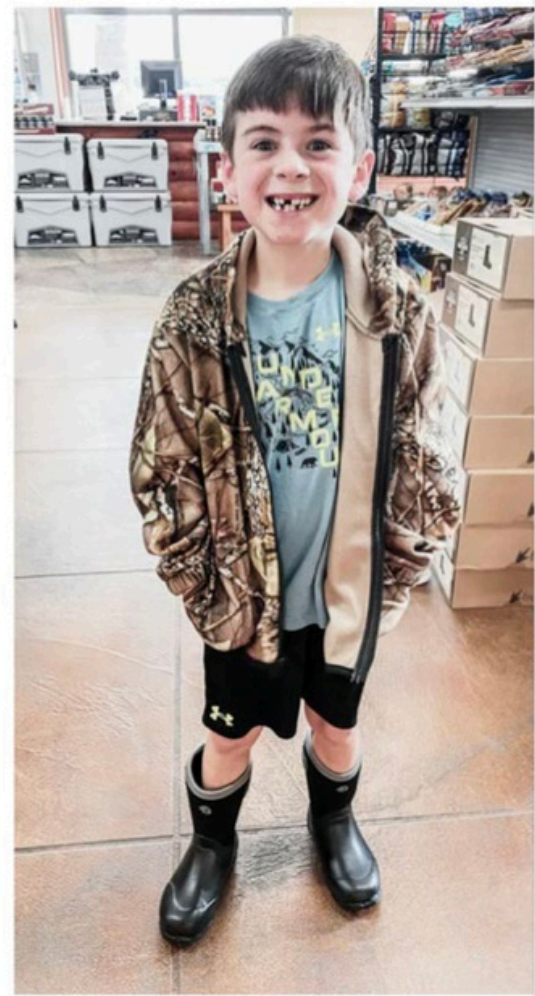
I suddenly had a deja vu moment of my son Matthew, Hudson's daddy, spotting a homeless man one night and saying those exact words to me when he was nine years old. Matthew's words made me emotional because I saw his mercy and compassion for another human being.

34 | As for Me and My House

He saw that poor man had nothing and no one as he sat in solitude on a bench. I knew that night Matthew's heart connected with God's heart to consider the needs of another. I was so touched by his words and desire to give the man what we could.

When referring to the homeless, I have often heard comments like, "They probably have more money than you do." Well, they might, and they might not, but one day, when my kids were little, I looked into the eyes of a familiar homeless man in our community, and I saw Jesus.

We had stopped at a red light while running errands, and he was standing there in his usual spot. I happened to have cash, which was rare. So I rolled the window down on the passenger side for my daughter, Shelby, to give him the money.

A woman pouring water into a cup for a homeless man. The scene is set outdoors, with a brick wall in the background. The woman is on the left, and the man is on the right, looking up at her. A purple text box is overlaid on the image.

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I*

As he leaned toward the car to receive the gift, my eyes locked with his, and I felt like I was giving it to Jesus. I will never forget the deep blue color and the softly piercing look that came from the soul of his eyes. I knew then that what he did with the money was not the point. It's what it taught my kids: to have compassion for the poor, the lonely, the broken, and to be a giver because it touches another heart, and Jesus told us to.

Later that day, Hudson saw another homeless man and said, "Nan, there's another homeless man we need to give money to."

At that point in our day, our time was closing in, and we had to pick up my other two grandchildren. I told Hudson he had a good eye for detecting those in need, but turning around was out of the question.

I explained to him that it's not possible to feed everyone and that we do what we can. And that's okay. Many people after us will pass them, too, and someone will come through for them—God will see to it.

We, as Christians, are called to help those who have less than we do. Here are a few ideas you can do with your family or other believers to help those less fortunate than you.

## 1. GOODIE BAGS

Premade goody bags are fun for the kids, and they love to share them. Include water, toiletries, protein bars, fruit roll-ups, socks, and/or hats and gloves.

## 2. RESOURCES

Look for the resources available in your area and create a card with information and numbers. Include in the bags the names of shelters, soup kitchens, suicide hotlines, and church organizations that have ministries for the homeless when they are ready for help. Print several and keep them in your car together with your gifts to them.

## 3. GROCERY GIFT CARDS

While I gave cash in this story, it is better to give gift cards. Giving \$5-\$10 cards to grocery stores and local restaurants or coffee shops still provides an opportunity to put something in their stomach.

## 4. VOLUNTEER

Volunteer to serve as a family at the local homeless shelters and kitchens.

## 5. LISTEN TO STORIES

If you have contact with a group of people, look for opportunities to listen to their stories and pray with

them. Ask them if they have made Jesus their Savior and Lord. If not, share the gospel with them. You may be the only person from whom they hear about Jesus.

I thought about a short story I heard once. Are you familiar with the starfish story? One day, a young child was walking along the beach after a raging storm that washed up thousands of starfish. The boy began throwing them back into the ocean one by one when a man approached and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Throwing the starfish back into the ocean," the boy replied. "If I don't throw them back, they will die."

The man condemned his efforts by saying, "Son, don't you realize how many thousands of starfish you will have to throw back? You can't make a difference."

Bending down, the boy picked up another starfish and threw it back into the water. "I made a difference for that one," he said with a smile.

