

One of the toughest things teenagers have to do is be able to think for themselves and not worry about what their friends have to say. Not an easy thing to do. Unfortunately, too many teenagers, when put in a box to make a choice, are more concerned about their “image” than they are about making the right choice. The following true story is about one boy who wasn’t.

Here’s what happened...



A city bus pulls up to a bus stop. Three teenagers get on and sit toward the back of the bus. Winter time, 20 degrees, snow on the ground. The bus pulls away and shortly after makes another stop. A homeless lady gets on. She reaches down into

her torn apron, pulls out some change to pay and then sits towards the back of the bus where the 3 teenagers are.

Two of the three teenager start making fun of the fact that the lady had no shoes on. She had rags wrapped around her feet to keep them warm.

“Hey lady,” one boy said. *“Where did you get those shoes, J.C.Dumpster?”* Both boys laugh.

As the boys continued to put the lady down, the third boy finally got up, looked at his friends, and then walked over to the lady. He paused for a moment, looked back at his friends, then bent down, took off his brand new sneakers that he just bought at the mall and then handed them to the lady saying,

“here lady, you need these more that I do.”

His friends went crazy.

“Man, are you nuts!!?” one shouted. *“They cost \$85. Why you giving them to that old lady!!!?”*

The boy said nothing.

The bus stopped, the boy glanced over at his friends, then got off the bus in his stocking feet, in the snow, in the 20 degree weather and walked 8 city blocks to his apartment. His feet must have froze.

Do you think the boy in this story cared anything about his “image” or his “reputation?” I doubt it very much.

Truth is the boys’ reputation wasn't damaged at all. When the word got out about what happened, he had the respect of people from not only in his school, but from all around the city as well.

How did the word get out?

A passenger on the bus at the time who saw what happened called the local newspaper, and they in turn did a story on it.

But even if the word didn’t get out and nobody knew what happened, he still would have earned the respect of the most important person...

Himself.

I guess it's true what they say,

**“THE STRONGEST PERSON
IN THE WORLD IS HE
WHO IS ABLE TO
STAND ALONE.”**