

Has there ever been a time in your life where you didn't really understand what was happening or why but then you have a God moment? I consider God moments those times where God breaks through our lives that are often in turmoil and brings peace into our lives.

I was talking to Jackie last night and shared with her that I hadn't really started today's message. And so she spit out a story that she shared during her first sermon when I was her pastor at St. Petes. After she finished the story, I told her that was about 20 seconds long and asked her what else she had.

She laughed and I think she may have called me a name, but then she shared another story which actually fits with one of the directions that I was thinking about going. Last Monday she was having a pity party while driving. She was fighting back tears because her mom died last year and today is her first mother's day without her mom here. She was taking her cat to the vet because something was wrong with her and so she thought she may have been worked up over that. She said there was some other stuff going on as well but didn't go into details.

All of this was building up in her and she was struggling with everything that was going on. As she drove into town, she stopped at a stop sign to wait for the cross traffic to go by and she spaced off a bit. When she snapped too, she had just missed an opportunity to make her turn and continue to the vet. So she sat there a little longer and waited for a couple of more cars to go by.

Once the third car in line had gone by, she turned in behind it. And there in front of her was her God moment.

Jackie was feeling pretty sad about everything that was going on and to be honest, most of it was probably tied to her mom's death. But the cause of her sadness doesn't matter. On Monday, she was struggling with life just like any one of us does on any day in our own life.

So what changed? The car that she pulled in behind had personalized plates that said "HE LUVS U". He loves you. God loves you where you are right now. That reminder was all that Jackie needed to get over the hump in her road.

That is what God moments are. They are times in our lives where God uses us to reach other people. Look at Paul and Silas from our second reading. They were in jail because Paul cast out a spirit of divination which had possessed someone. Yes, he did it out of irritation, but he did still help somebody. But the owners of the slave girl were not pleased

and so they had them beaten, put in shackles and thrown in jail. At night there was an earthquake and the shackles and prison doors were opened. But instead of escaping, Paul and Silas stayed in their cell.

When the guard woke up and saw all the doors open, he was ready to kill himself but Paul called out to him and after they had talked, the guard took Paul and Silas to his home where Paul preached the gospel and the jailer and his family were baptized.

As you read the whole story from beginning to end, you have to be amazed at how much good God brought out of everything that happened. It started with Paul being irritated and ended with an entire household being baptized.

The point I want to make is that we can't always explain why things happen but God is always working through us. After all, who would have guessed that a license plate would have given Jackie peace last Monday.

God speaks to us through a variety of ways including ways that may be hard for us to understand or even believe. But just as important as God speaking to us, is the fact that God also uses us to speak to others.

There is no way for us to fully understand how what we do or say impacts those we interact with. I have no idea how long that I have known a gentleman named Colorado. I got to know him a car site that I belong to and we became friends. I go by Pastor Bubba on those sites and so I get questioned about am I really a pastor all the time when I first join a site. And once they realize that I am a pastor in real life, I usually get more questions. For whatever reason, and it is probably either cars or that they are not looking at me face to face, they are more comfortable in talking to me and asking their questions.

On Friday, I received a phone call and was asked to preside at a graveside service for a woman that I had no idea who she was. Since the family specifically asked for me, I figured they either knew me or were associated with Immanuel in some way. I asked Mindy thinking it was somebody who was active at Immanuel before I came but she didn't know her either.

About 10 minutes later, I get a call from Clint, also known as Colorado and he asked if the funeral home had gotten a hold of me. I found out that the lady I will be burying is his mom and he told his family that he wanted me to do the service.

God is always at work in a variety of ways. We touch the lives of others because of the relationships that we share, what we say and what we do. We are also recipients of those moments of grace as God touches us.