

Unworldly Wisdom

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Without question, I received my most treasured gift from a young 23 year old woman when I was about 30 years old. This gift was so powerfully healing and it instantly reached into my heart in ways that have helped me know how to handle pain, sadness, betrayal, and unfair treatment from another in ways that nothing else can do. Her name was Ashlyn and she was fresh out of college, newly married, and quite physically beautiful, and I supervised her boss at the agency we both worked for at the time. At this point I had come to believe that most people who walk right off the graduation stage and into a full-time job needed a few years in the “real world” to brown up that green, zealous energy they possess so that they can truly “understand” how to manage mature issues and concerns.

Ashlyn *was* young, inexperienced, and very green professionally; however she was wise and spiritually mature...well beyond her years. As she began her job, she made friends quickly as she was bright, friendly, and genuine. She also seemed to “attract” enemies who reacted to her in ways that bellowed their deep insecurities and envy of her grounded disposition and her authentic motives and actions.

Quickly, I began observing several individuals treat her in the most hurtful and punishing ways and would even stoop so low as they attempted to damage her both personally and professionally. It was without question, unfair and horrifying to witness. As things unfolded, there was little that could be done, and I found myself reaching my boiling point...for her. I could not imagine how she dealt with the ruthless persecution of others around her and still manage to show up each day with a smile on her face, radiance from within, and a steadfast approach to her day.

One day after a particularly heavy moment of unfair persecution, I asked her as I did my best to stifle the anger and intense emotions that I felt on her behalf, how she seemed to manage it with such grace. She looked at me and said that she stopped what she was doing and said a prayer for the person who was mistreating her. She did not get angry, she did not cry, she did not make any hasty decisions, and she did not instinctively fight back and say harsh things back to them. She prayed...for them.

A most immediately healing experience that I have never forgotten and I am so thankful that I received a most precious gift from a young woman who was supposed to be so shallow with innocence, but instead was deeply enriched with Jesus.