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kind, godly manner of living. Here are a few ideas.

*Practice awareness of others.* Donne wrote, “No man is an island, entire in himself...” We are part of something larger. When someone steps into “your” place in line, smile and practice patience rather than unleashing snide, vindictive or ugly comments. After all, “your” place is focused on “you”.

Acknowledge others. While traveling this week, a young man delayed his stepping through a door and held it for me. I thanked him and held it for the man behind me. We all stepped into the store, walking along side each other and smiling. The simple act of miniscule sacrifice of time and energy created a moment of shared connection. I noticed it right away.

Think the best of others. Instead of deciding the driver of the car who cut you off, was trying to make your day difficult... choose to believe they don't judge distance well or made an honest mistake. Don't allow harshness in the form of language or thought to take root in your mind.

Just these three things will be the prelude to a better week. I'll be praying for you.

*Grace and Peace,  
Carl*

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*

St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
St John, KS 67576



St John Church of Christ  
A Family of God

November 29, 2015

As you know, we aren't having worship services and Bible classes today. The ice is too treacherous for travel in town and many of us would not get across the parking lot while maintaining a vertical position. Be careful today while doing chores and addressing the necessary things in your world.

Let me share with you some “Spiritual Shorts”, a few paragraphs to encourage us to be people who represent Jesus well in our communities.

One of the statements that Janet's mother had written in the back of her Bible was, “If you read your Bible and it makes you self-righteous, you didn't understand it.” We need to be careful how we read, as well as “How we hear.”

As disciples of Jesus we recognize that no behavior of ours is without consequences to others, and we anticipate what those consequences may be. The earth-shaking teaching of the Sermon on the Mount of turning the other cheek, going the extra mile, and giving both a coat and a cloak to the one who demands it are all preludes to a radical manner of living. Jesus introduces us to the concept of taking every curse from others and returning a blessing in its place.

Learning to live this way fosters an awareness of others, which weaves consideration, restraint, and respect into the fabric of our lives. It is a gracious,

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