

## Pay It Forward

You probably heard the recent Christmas story about the Marysville, Washington Starbucks Coffee shop where an anonymous customer paid for the coffee order of the car in line behind her. This was not the first time she had done this but on this particular occasion something very interesting happened.

The next person came to the window and was told that they did not owe anything as their bill was already paid for them. After getting over the shock that a complete stranger had paid for them, they in turn wanted to pay for the people behind them. Some people wondered if they were on Candid Camera while others were deeply touched and perhaps put in touch with some past memories of Christmas, family and giving. This all started on a Wednesday. It was two days and 1013 customers later on Friday at 6:20AM that the chain was broken. Many customers were so overwhelmed they added \$10-\$20 to their bill which Starbucks later pledged to donate to their ongoing Holiday Toy Drive Project.

So what was it that made this so magic? A complete stranger gave them something that was not expected and not deserved.

And yet this is the same thing that God has done for us on a so much greater scale. We were strangers to Him but he loved us and gave His only Son for us. We were not worthy and yet He counted us worthy – so much so that a supreme sacrifice was made for us. And He did not just give us a discount coupon that would give us \$5 off or even 50% off. He paid our debt in full.

When Jesus cried out “It is Finished” he used the word “Tetelestai” which was the same word used to describe the condition for release of prisoners who had served their sentence or paid their fine in full and could now be released from prison. So whenever we read those words “It is finished” we need to think “Paid in Full”.

So the greatest “Pay It Forward” gift was Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for us. He set us free from the penalty of Sin and Death

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