

ENDURING LESS-THAN-DESIREABLES REQUIRES PLAN

“Unfortunately, annoying travel-mates are part of our journey on Earth.”

Everyone has the opportunity to usher great joy into our lives – some when they arrive and others as they depart.

A classic example of the latter category was seen in the following ad that appeared on Saskatoon Kijiji, the online equivalent of a city-wide garage sale.

Offering: A 24 year old female to go to a good home. Parents are looking to get rid of a spoiled 24 year old. She comes with many accessories including:

Child of her own (under a year old)

30+ cats

2 dogs

Guinea Pig

Clothes

A big chip on her shoulder

This 24 year old is educated but lazy. She will require constant pampering, will not take care of her child or animals, and has a drinking problem. She will also not contribute financially in any part.

If you have the time and patience for a spoiled baby with a baby, please take her off of her parents' hands. They would gladly appreciate it.

Disclaimer: This is not an actual offer. This is a joke (or is it?). Posted by brother on behalf of parents.

I don't know if the advertisement resulted in a good home for this young adult, but it certainly stirred up curiosity as hundreds of people scanned the tongue-in-cheek “offering.”

It made me consider the question: How do we endure those less-than-desirables in our lives with whom we appear to be “stuck”: co-workers who rub us the wrong way, relatives who ramble endlessly or neighbours who throw *their* snow on *our* driveway? They may come in diverse packages, but when unwrapped they are remarkably similar in their uncanny ability to make you first want to scream, then run long and hard in the opposite direction.

Unfortunately, annoying travel-mates are part of our journey on Earth. That's why I'm so grateful for Jesus' sage advice about dealing with human irritants.

The first line of defence is a good offence. That's why He says, “Pray for those who persecute you.”

Prayer penetrates where anger and frustration cannot -- the human soul. Yes, on my very best day, I cannot crawl into another's inner being and make adjustments. That's a God-sized task that He alone is up to. Our involvement is prayer.

Secondly, Jesus spoke bluntly but lovingly to people; we can too. On one occasion, while chatting with a woman, he asked about her husband. She said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband." Now that's a blunt conversation -- but it was wrapped in love and we find the woman responded surprisingly well. Genuine love does not merely turn a "blind eye" but dares to confront in love.

Lastly, ask for grace to excel. Grace is God's ability made available to mankind. If we ask, our Heavenly Father is pleased to shore us up within and offer insight into living life to the fullest; even in the most difficult of situations.

Just for fun, you may also want to try a Kijiji ad. Results are unlikely, but the entertainment value is priceless.