

SOMBODY'S WATCHING ME

In 1984, R&B artist Rockwell released his debut single, "**Somebody's Watching Me**". It was released on the Motown record label, of which his father, Berry Gordy Jr. was the founder and CEO. The singer had himself signed to Motown without his father's knowledge. The elder Gordy did not find out that Rockwell was his son Kennedy until after the single and the accompanying album, "**Somebody's Watching Me**" were released. The song's lyrics relate the narrator's paranoid fear of being followed and watched. I love the irony of Rockwell singing about his fear of being watched, having recorded the song without his father's knowledge. Apparently, Mr. Gordy was not watching close enough.

The prospect of being watched is a sobering concept that all of us have to live with. No matter where we are in life, someone is watching us. Although, we are often unaware of these "watchers", we should not be paralyzed by the fear that our actions are seen by others. It should however, guide us as we live our lives each day.

As a parent, we are reminded constantly that our children are watching us and are learning from our actions. Nothing drives that point home as well as you hearing your 3 year old say from his car seat, "Come on lady, get out of the way". I wonder where he might have heard that before.

Another sobering moment that parents will face is when you are correcting your child for misbehaving and you hear your dad saying the things that he used to say to you in those situations only to realize your dad is not there. It is you saying those things that you learned from your parents.

As a church family, you realize that your brothers and sisters are watching you and how you relate to your church family and those outside the church. In Psalm 14:2 (NIV):

***The LORD looks down from heaven
on the sons of men
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.***

We are reminded that God is watching over us. Neither of these should scare us, but remind us how important it is to treat people with

respect, concern, and love. It also reminds us that we continually need to seek God and do his will.

There are many other "watchers" in our lives. Some we are aware of and some we may never know about. Recently, I had situation that revealed to me that we should always be careful of how we live our lives, and how important it is to treat everyone with kindness and respect.

In my current job situation, I have to be at work at 4:00 am everyday. If I get up as soon the alarm goes off at 3:00 am, I can make coffee and breakfast before I leave the house. If I am slow to get up, I will stop by McDonalds. Needless to say, I go to McDonalds 2-3 days a week.

Last Tuesday a young lady that I work with, Mayboll told me that I had met her mother and that I was not very nice to her. I told Mayboll that I was sorry and that I didn't remember even meeting anyone that I thought might be her mother let alone being unkind to someone. Mayboll began to smile and told me that her mom worked at McDonalds.

On one of my late days from the previous week, when I stopped to get my coffee and sausage biscuit, Mayboll's mom was the lady that served me. She told Mayboll, "he wasn't very nice, I said hello and he didn't say anything and he didn't even say thank you when I gave him his order." Mayboll replied to her mother, "Mommy, it was 4:00 am; he probably really needed the coffee."

Admittedly, I am not at my best at 4:00 am. As much as I appreciate Mayboll's defense of me and her understanding of my basic need for my morning coffee, there is no defense for me not returning kindness to a lady doing her job and doing it with cheerfulness and kindness even at 4:00 am. I have apologized to Mayboll and her mom and try to remember each day how important it is to on our best behavior at all times, yes even at 4:00 am.

Doing the right thing is not always the easy thing to do but it is always the right thing to do. I think most of the time, we do treat other people with respect, concern, and love. Most of the time is good but there are those time when we are tired, distracted, or it has not been a great day that we need to be reminded that there are "watchers" around us. They aren't waiting for us to mess up they just happen to be witnesses when we do.

Whether it's our dad, our children, our church family, God, or even Mayboll's mom who gives us our coffee at McDonalds, we can all say, "somebody's watching me". This should not make us paranoid but it should challenge us to be on our best behavior at all times. Even at 4:00 am and even before we've had our morning coffee.

Jeff