



**YOU REAP  
WHAT  
YOU SOW**

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"Good morning," said a woman as she walked up to the man sitting on the ground.

The man slowly looked up.

This was a woman clearly accustomed to the finer things of life. Her coat was new. She looked like she had never missed a meal in her life.

His first thought was that she wanted to make fun of him, like so many others had done before. "Leave me alone," he growled.

To his **amazement**, the woman continued standing.

She was smiling -- her even white teeth **displayed** in **dazzling** rows. "Are you hungry?" she asked.

"No," he answered **sarcastically**. "I've just come from dining with the president. Now, go away!"

The woman's smile became even **broader**. Suddenly, the man felt a gentle hand under his arm.

"What are you doing, lady?" the man asked **angrily**. "I said to leave me alone."

Just then a policeman came up. "Is there any problem, ma'am?" he asked.

"No problem here, officer," the woman answered. "I'm just trying to get this man to his feet. Will you help me?"

The officer scratched his head. "That's Old Jack. He's been a **fixture** around here for a couple of years. What do you want with him?"

"See that **cafeteria** over there?" she asked. "I'm going to get him something to eat and get him out of the cold for a while."

"Are you crazy, lady?" the homeless man resisted. "I don't want to go in there!"

Then he felt strong hands grab his other arm and lift him up. "Let me go, officer. I didn't do anything."

"This is a good deal for you, Jack," the officer answered. "Don't blow it."

Finally, and with some difficulty, the woman and the police officer got Jack into the cafeteria and sat him at a table in a remote corner. It was the middle of the morning, so most of the breakfast crowd had already left and the lunch bunch had not yet arrived.

The **manager** strode across the **cafeteria** and stood by his table. "What's going on here, officer?" he asked. "What is all this, is this man in trouble?"

"This lady brought this man in here to be fed," the policeman answered.

"Not in here!" the manager replied **angrily**. "Having a person like that here is **bad for business**."

Old Jack smiled a toothless grin. "See lady, I told you so. Now if you'll let me go. I didn't want to come here in the first place."

The woman turned to the cafeteria manager and smiled. "Sir, are you familiar with Eddy and Associates, the banking firm down the street?"

"Of course, I am," the manager answered impatiently. "They hold their weekly meetings in one of my banquet rooms."

"And do you make a goodly amount of money providing food at these weekly meetings?"

"What business is that of yours?"

I, sir, am Penelope Eddy, president and CEO of the company."

"Oh,"

The woman smiled again. "I thought that might make a difference." She glanced at the cop who was busy **stifling** a giggle. "Would you like to join us in a cup of coffee and a meal, officer?"

"No thanks, ma'am," the officer replied. "I'm on duty."

"Then, perhaps a cup of coffee to go?"

"Yes, ma'am. That would be very nice,"

The **cafeteria** manager turned on his heel, "I'll get your coffee for you right away, officer."



The officer watched him walk away. "You certainly put him in his place," he said.

"That was not my **intent**. Believe it or not, I have a reason for all this,"

She sat down at the table across from her **amazed** dinner guest. She stared at him **intently**. "Jack, do you remember me?"

Old Jack searched her face with his old, **rheumy** eyes. "I think so -- I mean, you do look familiar."

"I'm a little older perhaps," she said.

"Maybe I've even filled out more than in my younger days when you worked here, and I came through that very door, cold and hungry."

"Ma'am?" the officer said **questioningly**. He couldn't believe that such a **magnificently turned out** woman could ever have been hungry.

"I was just out of college," the woman began. "I had come to the city looking for a job, but I couldn't find anything. Finally, I was down to my last few cents and had been kicked out of my apartment. I walked the streets for days. It was February and I was cold and nearly **starving**. I saw this place and walked in on the off chance that I could get something to eat."

Jack lit up with a smile. "Now I remember," he said. "I was behind the **servicing** counter. You came up and asked me if you could work for something to eat. I said that it was against **company policy**."

"I know," the woman **continued**. "Then you made me the biggest roast beef sandwich that I had ever seen, gave me a cup of coffee, and told me to go over to a corner table and enjoy it. I was afraid that you would get into trouble. Then, when I looked over and saw you put the price of my food in the cash register, I knew then that everything would be all right."

"So, you started your own **business**?" Old Jack said.

"I got a job that very afternoon. I worked my way up. Eventually, I started my own **business** that, with the help of God, prospered." She opened her purse and pulled out a **business** card. "When you are finished here, I want you to pay a visit to a Mr. Lyons. He's the **personnel** director of my **company**. I'll go talk to him now and I'm certain he'll find something for you to do around the office." She smiled. "I think he might even find the funds to give you a little advance so that you can buy some clothes and get a place to live until you get on your feet. If you ever need anything, my door is always opened to you."

There were tears in the old man's eyes.  
"How can I ever thank you?" he said.

"Don't thank me," the woman answered.  
"To God goes the glory. Thank Jesus. He led me to you."

Outside the **cafeteria**, the officer and the woman paused at the entrance before going their separate ways.

"Thank you for all your help, officer," she said.

"**On the contrary**, Ms. Eddy," he answered. "Thank you. I saw a miracle today, something that I will never forget. And... and thank you for the coffee."