

Mistakes.

The man sat thinking, and he was thinking about mistakes. Not only his mistakes but the mistakes of people he had known that had impacted his life.

He always tried to do what he called “the next right thing,” and while he certainly was not perfect in doing that, he learned from his many mistakes. When he realized he had made a mistake, he apologized and tried not to repeat it. He then followed up his apology by trying to make amends. If his attempt to make amends was unsuccessful, he left the person alone.

He learned not to expect anything in return despite that being very difficult for him to accept.

Time passed, and still, a few of the mistakes he had made and the mistakes others made to him had not been resolved. First, he explained to himself that the mistake was in the past, and, so far in the past, it was irrelevant except to the person still feeling and remembering.

Second, he patiently tried his best to make amends by giving them the information necessary for them to forgive and forget.

Imagine his surprise and consternation when, despite not having spoken to a person in years and having them reconnect with him and bring up the past, he was met with their sarcastic reply, “Well, you apologized before!”

Having always been a man who detested confrontation, he let that slide as he had done before.

Except this time, after thinking things over, he decided he had had enough, so he told the person, “Look, you were never a good wife to Jack, nor were you a good mother. Jack was never a good husband, but he was a great father. I apologized for choosing Jack as my friend and for the hurt it caused you. Now, I wish you luck in your next endeavors and peace moving forward. ”

With that, the man ended their communication, knowing that some people cannot accept that they made mistakes and will choose to blame others until they die.

Their choosing to blame others meant he needed to accept it, even if he was the one they chose to blame.

The man knew and accepted that he wasn't responsible for anyone's life other than his.

Written by Peter Skeels © 1-8-2025