

I love going to Boy Scout Courts of Honor, watching as scouts receive the badges they work so hard for. As the ceremony begins, one of the scouts recites the Scout Oath and another reminds us of the character of a Scout as he lights candles for each quality. Among them are the statements that a Scout is honest and trustworthy.

I wish we could say that about everyone! All of us are tempted at times to fudge a little, to let our standards slip. The story below reminds us that even small acts tell the world who we are and what we stand for. None of us get it perfect, but all who claim to follow Christ strive for perfection.

The story is told about a preacher who was catching a bus one day to go into the city. As he came on the bus he paid the bus driver \$1, but the fare was only 75 cents.

The bus driver gave the pastor 35 cents change, and the pastor made his way to his seat. Once seated the minister noticed the 10-cent error in his favor. For a moment he sat thinking about the situation. Then he got up and approached the bus driver stating that he was given too much change.

The bus driver said, "I knew I gave you too much. I was in your church last week and heard you preach on honesty, and I just wanted to see if you practice what you preach!"

You never know who is watching! Perhaps the most important acts are those we do when no one is watching, when we do what we do to please no one but God. Paul writes to the Philippians, "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you" (Phil. 4:8-9).

God is always present with us and God's grace will help us to do what we cannot do on our own.