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Most Important  
Decision You  
Will Ever  
Make...Ever!***

**Discovering Your  
Life's Greatest Purpose**



**BIG-HEARTED PEOPLE<sup>®</sup> LLC**  
Publishing

## **Drama in the Courtroom**

The well-dressed young man sat motionless in the courtroom. His head hung low as he awaited sentencing for his criminal behavior. The State prosecutor made a compelling case against the accused. He had no choice but to plead guilty—the evidence against him was overwhelming. He also realized the severity of his crime and expressed deep remorse and sorrow over what he had done. But after embezzling more than 2 million dollars from his employer, he knew that his sentence would be harsh.

“All rise” was heard as the bailiff announced the judge's entrance and everyone's eyes were fastened to the front of the courtroom. This was a high-profile case and everybody present, including the media, anxiously awaited the judge's verdict. The judge upon sitting, immediately spoke to those assembled before him; by first reading the list of charges prior to the sentencing. He continued, “The sentence for this type of white-collar crime is straightforward. So, by reason of the guilty verdict, I hereby sentence the convicted to...”

Before the judge could utter another word, a distinguished looking man sitting in the back of the courtroom spoke loudly. "Excuse me Your Honor, but please allow me to speak. I am the founder and CEO of the company upon which this crime was committed." The judge, although surprised by the outburst, allowed the executive to continue. "I understand that the guilty party must pay for his crimes and that your sentence will serve justice, however I ask the court to grant this one request." The judge nodded for him to continue.

"Despite the devious and willfully deceitful efforts of my employee to defraud my company of millions of dollars and blatantly disregard the laws of this State, I plead with this court for leniency. I am willing to pay any fines, even serve jail time on his behalf, or at least be willing to drop all charges if it will mean allowing him to be exonerated." A unified gasp resonated throughout the courtroom at his utterance. The judge, blindsided by what he heard, took a long pause to gain his composure and spoke. "In all my years as a judge I've never been asked to grant a request like this! Why would you be willing to perform such a great sacrifice since you were the one being defrauded by your own guilty employee?"

The CEO quickly responded, "because regardless of the fact that he committed this crime against me,

I still see value in him. Since he expressed remorse and true repentance for his actions, I believe I can help him change his life for the better; with close supervision, counseling and guidance. I want to give him a second chance.”

Both astonished and mystified by what he heard, the judge slammed his gavel down and proclaimed, “all charges dropped, bailiff please release the defendant to the recognizance of his employer!” The pardoned young man was surprised and amazed by this selfless act of forgiveness. He placed his head in his hands and wept for joy. Although this story is purely fiction, the lessons that we can learn from it are life-changing if placed in the right context. Most of us would likewise be tearfully joyful if we were found guilty of a crime but pardoned by someone making a great sacrifice to purchase our freedom. However, we would obviously first need to confirm that the offending charges against us were indeed truly justified.

### **Basically, Good at Heart?**

You may have heard this question before or even wondered about this yourself at some time in your life; “are human beings basically good or evil at heart?” Philosophers and theologians have debated this for centuries and due to a multitude of opinions, the answers seem to be inconclusive. But