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The Bully

Justin was a strong boy. He was the first to be selected for the rugby team. He was the first to be picked for the football team, and if he had wished to play for the netball team, he would be first on the list for that too. He was good at most things but sadly he was a bully. He picked on the younger boys, and made fun of them. Why? Well, I could not tell you. There seemed to be no reason. His mother and father were nice people, but he seemed to thrive on being unkind to others.

Danny was not like Justin, he was kind and a good sportsman. He usually sat next to Justin in class. They tolerated each other, but there was no way that they could be said to like each other. They got on and they had mutual respect for each other. They both played for the school team. Indeed they played in the front row of the rugby team together. Danny was the hooker, and Justin was the prop. They relied on each other to a great extent and the team was very successful. Danny, however, did not like the way Justin pushed his weight around. And he told him so. They had had a few words about this, but it never came to anything.

One day, in fact it was the day of the Christmas Party, Danny was walking along the corridor, then he looked up and was shocked to see Justin kicking a bright green Nike bag along the corridor. Danny knew that Justin always tried to make others feel uncomfortable, but he had never tried to bother him. Why on earth would he start on him now? Danny knew that he must do something. He could not let Justin kick his brand new bag down the corridor. He had only just got it for his birthday and it had cost a lot of money.

"Oy! Put my bag down!" he shouted.

"What?" said Justin.

"You heard me, put my bag down."

"What are you on about?" enquired Justin.

"I'll show you what I'm on about," said Danny, as he dived straight at Justin, and caught him around the waist.

"What's the matter with you?" said Justin, as he swung his fist and caught Danny on the side of the head. "Get off me."

Justin hit Danny twice, and then picked him up.

"Stop it, you fool."

"No! You can't keep hurting people like this."

"I'll hurt you, if you don't stop," shouted Justin as he pushed Danny against the wall, and walked away kicking the bag as he went.

Danny turned and wiped the blood from his nose.

“That was my bag!” he said to himself. “My mother will kill me if I go home without it.”

He turned and walked back to his classroom to get his coat. He looked down, and there on his chair was his brand new Nike bag. He then realised that Justin must have had exactly the same bag as him, and it was this that he had been kicking along the corridor.

A few hours later Danny met Justin.

“I’m sorry,” said Danny.

“What for?” replied Justin.

“I’m sorry, because I jumped to conclusions. I thought that you were kicking my bag along the corridor.”

“Why would I do that?” asked Justin.

“I don’t know,” replied Danny.

Thought

We should always think before we act.

Prayer

Encourage us to take time to think.