

Questions No One Told Me I'd Have to Ask Myself...

by Anonymous



I carry a gun.
It's very inconvenient.
It's a real hassle to remember to check signs at doors.
But it hits you...
It's a real responsibility.
A responsibility to those around you.

After two years of procrastinating, I finally got my License to Carry (LTC). Then it took a few weeks to decide I'd have to carry it at all times if I was going to benefit from having a license. It's not like you can choose which day something horrible might happen. You have to be prepared regardless.

After the horrific massacre in Sutherlands Springs, Texas, where church members were mowed down in a hail of bullets, my Pastor decided to ask the men in the church if any of them had their LTC. Only one man did. He is older, has a heart condition, and struggles with health issues. My Pastor didn't think to ask the women. I popped an email to him and suggested he ask the women. He didn't fare much better. It appears I was going to be his best bet in providing security for our little church.

The first Sunday service to which I took my gun, I sat in the back so I would have the best advantage in watching over the congregation. Then it hit me. While the Preacher was sharing the Word God had given him for the congregation that day, I was having my own discussion with the Lord. It absorbed me, this one question: Was I willing to stand between danger and the people in the sanctuary, to save their lives, possibly by giving my own?

When you hear someone talking about a license to carry, you don't hear this discussion. You don't hear the personal "responsibility" that might fall upon your shoulders for a group of people, possibly even complete strangers. Would you be willing to spring into action? Typically, you think of pulling the trigger as a personal matter, something you might do to defend yourself if trouble presented itself. But, that might not be how the situation presents itself.

As I sat there, looking over the group of people who had gathered that morning to hear from God, the answer in my heart came without hesitation. Yes, I would step into the line of danger to potentially save any one of the lives in the sanctuary. Settling that decision, prompted me to plan to practice my shooting regularly, to become very comfortable with working my gun and magazine.

I need more training; training that will allow me to perform with automatic competence once the decision to act is made. I just attended a self-defense class to learn more in the realm of defending myself. For someone who has never considered having to defend herself or protect others, it's a whole new arena. I think we need more conversation in this area, more training, more practice so we will be well prepared to do what's needed with excellence.

Unfortunately, our modern-day society may be headed into the look and feel of the old wild, wild west, where every man wore a six-shooter on his hip. How sad is that?

Lord, help us to restore respect for life, liberty, and freedom. Help us to turn this tidal wave of violence back into a season of peace, security, and safety. And Lord, I pray I never have to use my gun to protect my life or the life of others. Help me to become comfortable with having it with me and also guide my sighting before I pull the trigger. As Carrie Underwood said in her hit song, "Jesus, take the wheel," I'd like to say, "Jesus, shoot the gun, if ever needed."

Until next time...

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