

November 10, 2015

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Recently, I have been thinking about Mr. Jesdale.

Mr. Jesdale was my high school advisor. An English teacher and soccer coach, he was the nicest person you would ever want to meet.

More importantly, Mr. Jesdale believed in me. I did not always work as hard as I should have in high school. I was a bit of a slacker, more interested in playing basketball than spending time in the library. During parent-teacher conferences, my poor parents would always hear the same report: "Andrew is not applying himself." It was like a broken record.

But, Mr. Jesdale saw the best in me. He never criticized me or came down on me. He was encouraging and supportive, always there to help, with a kind word or a few minutes of his time. I remember walking into his office between classes, just to chat or catch-up, and I would always leave feeling better, because I knew he was on my side.

Most of you probably had a Mr. Jesdale in your life, as well: a teacher who had a profound influence on your life and helped shape you into the person you are. Teachers rarely get the recognition they deserve, and so, today, say a little prayer of thanks for that one who really inspired you. Lord knows, they deserve it.

See you in church,
Andrew