

Bode Coleman

Mrs. Stein

English 12A

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Deliberation

“We have an interesting case here, Jesus,” God said with a frown. “This was one of my favorite prospects in the selection this year.” As Jesus examined the case, his smile morphed into a deep frown. “I thought he was one of our favorites!” Jesus shouted. “I thought he was sure to join us up here”. They all looked at each other and knew they would have to dive deep to find more evidence about this case.

“Deciding where he will reside in the afterlife will be a challenge, to say the least.”

“What we have here is a man named Bartholomew Winkleton,” God said. Bartholomew was born into a poor family, with his mother, and father living in a low-income household. They raised him with solid moral values and gave him the best upbringing they could. Although he didn’t have much, he always put others before himself in any scenario he could. There was one time in his childhood that Jesus liked especially. It was when he returned a wallet to a wealthy man who had lost it, even though it had enough cash in it to buy the new expensive toy he wanted. Nobody would have known if he kept the wallet, but he chose to return it anyway. There was another example where Bartholomew had saved up his money from finding cans on the street and returning them. He had saved enough money to buy a fancy cookie from the bakery that his parents couldn't afford. There were many examples like this of Bartholomew’s selflessness that made Jesus extremely fond of him. “It has been all good things so far” Jesus emphasized to God, “It is such a shame that this one night could make all the difference.”

It was a warm August evening, and the air was charged with a certain electricity and excitement that only happens a few times a year. Bartholomew was 18 years old and ready for a night of adventure. There was a big party that everyone in his graduating class was going to that he just had to stop by. He

and his good friend Jamaal had been planning to go for a week now. Jamaal had told Bartholomew that he wouldn't have any alcohol and drive him home so that Bartholomew could have a few beers.

Bartholomew agreed since he is always the one who drives Jamaal home. Besides, Jamaal had a big football preseason game on his new college team in the morning, so he had to be home anyway.

When Bartholomew and Jamaal arrived at the party, they were taken away by the vibe of the night. Very early on in the night, they split up and went their separate ways. Bartholomew decided to crack open a cold *Natural Light* and starts to kick back and enjoy himself. Not long after, the song "Hate Being Sober" by Chief Keef came on. Bartholomew being a big Chief Keef fan, felt it only right to have a few more beers. Before he knew it, Bartholomew was drunk. He was not very familiar with how his body reacted to alcohol, so a little went a long way for him.

"There is still hope for him," Jesus said as he winced. "Just keep watching," God told him.

The next thing Bartholomew saw was his friend Jamaal stumbling through the door. Jamaal was drunk. Bartholomew had never seen someone so drunk in his entire life. Jamaal slurred his speech when he yelled "we need to go home". Bartholomew was conflicted. He felt angry at Jamaal for drinking when he wasn't supposed to, he felt confused about how they were going to get home, and he also felt quite drunk.

It was at this point that Bartholomew made a very poor decision and critical lapse in judgment that ultimately lead to his demise. He decided that Jamaal needed to get home for his football game and that the only way that can happen is if he drives him home.

Bartholomew Winkleton was later responsible for the death of 6 people that night. Not only did he himself not arrive alive, but neither did Jamaal nor did the 4 people inside the car he collided with. This is what made God choose Bartholomew's fate in the afterlife, not the good life that Bartholomew had lived before. In the end, Bartholomew was the one at fault. It was so avoidable, but once it happened it was so irreversible. This one mistake had overridden a lifetime of good deeds.