

Subject: Sermon Ideas – On Coincidence

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The following story is taken from Michael Moore's new book entitled, Dude, Take Back Your Country! I used it in my sermon last Sunday. It was well received and made an important point in a discussion concerning coincidence. I'm sharing it because I'm sure someone else can use it as well.

I love listening to people's stories about where they were and what they were doing on the morning of 9/11, especially the stories from the ones who, through luck or fate, were allowed to live. For instance, there is this guy who had just returned the day before from his honeymoon. That night, on September 10, his new bride thought she'd make him her special homemade burrito. The burrito was horrible, like eating tar stripped off the centerline of the Major Deegan expressway. But love ignores all of that and what counts is the gesture, not the digestion. He told a how grateful he was and how much he loved her. And he asked for another.

The next morning, September 11, 2001, he's on the subway from Brooklyn to his job on one of the top floors of the World Trade Center. The subway might have been heading into Manhattan, but the burrito was heading south, and I don't mean the Jersey shore. He starts to get sick, real sick, and decides to get off just one stop before the World Trade Center. He runs up the subway stairs in a desperate search for facilities. But this is New York and that was not to be. And thus on the corner of Park Row and Broadway, he became a poster boy for Depends. Embarrassed and humiliated but feeling much better he flagged down a gypsy cab and offered him a hundred dollars to take him home (\$9 for the ride, and \$91 toward the price of a new car).

When the man got home, he ran inside to take a shower and to put on a new set of clothes so he could get back to Manhattan. Coming out of the shower he flipped on the TV and as he stood there, he watched the plane slam right into the floor where he worked, where he would of been *right now* had his loving wife not made him that wonderful – that absolutely perfectly incredible amazing . . . He broke down and began to cry.