

EZRA

81

By James Collins

Presently there is an atrocious scam in play where the thieves pick on the elderly. They claim to be a grandchild who is in trouble and is in jail in Mexico. They need \$2000 or thereabouts for bail money. Further, they request that the grandparent not contact their parents as they have broken their rules. Against their parent's wishes, they went to Mexico and were arrested. Now they urgently need money. Unfortunately, Many people respond.

I received such a call last week.

The phone rang. I answered it and heard,

"Hi Grandpa, how are you doing?"

"Who the hell are you?"

"Why don't you take a wild guess?"

"None of my kids would ever answer like that!" I responded, and I hung up.

I thought about this call for a while. I knew it was a scam and I answered appropriately, but I figured I could've answered differently. They listen and try to manipulate their story to get you to send money. I want to string him along. Get him to think his pitch was working and then deflate his expectations.

The scenario I prepared would be as follows

I answer the phone.

"Hey, Grandpa, how are you doing?"

"Who the hell is this?"

"Why don't you take a wild guess?"

Is more than a fair but the focus going I hear what the hell happened only (and "Ezra, is that you? Ezra, I have missed you. You have always been my favorite grandchild. The last time we met, I was drunk . (sob) I am sorry. (sob) I missed you Ezra. (sob) I was drunk. You turned on me. (sob) I should not have shot at you. I fired those two shots and I thought I hit you. Apparently I did not. (sob) Ezra the next time I see you,(steely voice) I will be cold sober... and I will shoot you dead."

(Hang up phone)

THE END