

Reflection Saturday week 11 2022

In response to the gospel, many could say that Jesus did not live in the real world or take responsibility for what happens in life. Families have to be fed and cared for. This demands planning, forethought and self-sacrifice. The present economic crisis has highlighted this as more and more people struggle to put food on the table. Yet it is precisely in this climate of difficulties we must not forget those in need and reach out to them even though we may have very little to offer.

One day a man saw an old lady stranded with her car on the side of the road needing help. He pulled over to help her. Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for over an hour. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry. Seeing that she was frightened, he knew how she felt and said, "I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson."

She had a flat tire, too much for an old lady to handle. Bryan, however, soon changed the tire. As he was finishing, the lady told him she couldn't thank him enough for his help. Bryan just smiled as he finished. The lady asked how much she owed him. Bryan never thought twice about being paid, he was glad to help someone in need. He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone needing help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and Bryan added, "And think of me."

A few miles down the road the lady stopped for a bite to eat at a dingy looking restaurant. However, the waitress came to her with a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile despite working all day. The lady noticed the waitress was eight months pregnant, but never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred-dollar bill. While the waitress went for change the old lady just slipped right out the door. When the waitress returned, she noticed something written on the napkin: "You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, do not let this chain of love end with you." Under the napkin were four more \$100 bills.

When she finally reached home and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard... She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a kiss and whispered, "Everything's going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson."