



Monday Matters

March 25, 2013

Robbed! Now What?

A couple of weeks ago I pulled into our driveway and immediately noticed the front window open. My heart sank. I knew something was wrong. I called the police. With much fabricated courage I went in as I was confident the deed was over. Our house was broken into by a calculating criminal and we were robbed. It was a confusing experience as we had recently moved and were still in the throes of sorting out our moving chaos. Maybe numbering boxes would have been better than labeling. It seemed we had announced what we had and helped the burglars along in making their decisions of what to take.

We supposed our humble belongings would be inconsequential to anyone, but it appears there was just enough to tantalize the depraved mind of a burglar.

Losing personal possessions propels you into a type of grieving process. The things lost had sentimental value - with a reminder of how exceedingly blessed we are and about the wonderful times we have experienced.

So, I've prayed in a child-like way with child-like faith for those things to reappear - for a miracle to happen. I could envision the robbers to be so convicted that they would have a change of heart and return our belongings attached to our precious



Made Me Glad Hillsong Album - Blessed

Quote of the Week

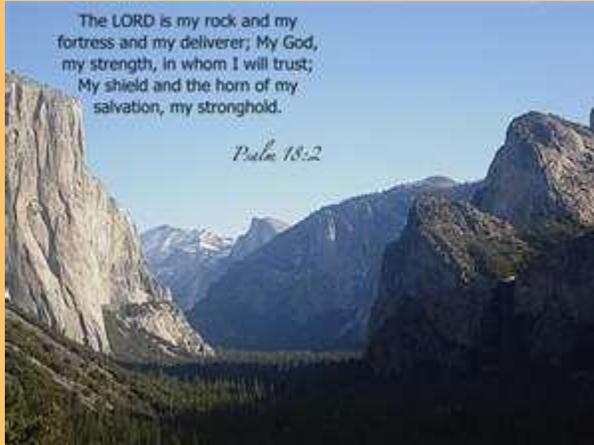
"Once we recognize our need for Jesus, then the building of our faith begins. It is a daily, moment-by-moment life of absolute dependence upon Him for everything."

~Catherine Marshall~

Monday Matters

Ron Nelson, CCA

memories.



We all suffer in life and really it's not possible to completely comprehend the impact of one's suffering. However, it is a blessing to have valued friends who check on how you're doing, listen to your despairing words from your heart and offer you worthy advice. Then the time comes to move forward and confront the reality of loss. This becomes complicated because now you have to find a place to file your "loss" experience. Do you let it smolder, or is God able to soothe your heartache with a reassurance of His love? It's a process God leads us through.

Suffering is not an amusing thing. We surely wonder what good it does, but from experience and in all honesty we know suffering makes us a different person. Now the direction we take to become different becomes our choice. With tenacity we resolve to see it as a builder - to make us sterner stuff. In the internal din and clamor we determine to make our world return to normal, grateful for the comfort of knowing God can ease the pain in the worst of times.

I resolve to have confidence in God and trust that He is at work and in full control. I am sure I will always feel a twinge of pain coupled with some smoldering moments when I think of our loss; however, what I suffer through, God knows about and peace is available to me.

"I am not a theologian or a scholar, but I am very aware of the fact that pain is necessary to all of us. In my own life, I think I can honestly say that out of the deepest pain has come the strongest conviction of the presence of God and the love of God."

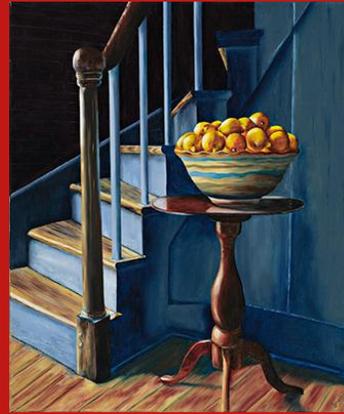
~Elisabeth Elliot~

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Lemon Stand"

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