

Reflections with Sharon

Help somebody

Read Philemon

Recently a friend of mine sent me a cute little story about a farm mouse that discovered much to his dismay, that the farmer and his wife had purchased a mousetrap. The mouse wasted no time informing the other farmyard animals that there was a mousetrap in the house, but the chicken, the pig and the cow made light of the news, as none of them saw any reason why they should be distressed over a mousetrap.

Dejected and alone, the mouse braced himself to deal with his troubles alone quite unaware of his imminent relief. That very night, the farmer's wife was bitten by a venomous snake whose tail had gotten caught in the mousetrap. She developed a high fever so the chicken was killed to fix her some fresh hot chicken soup. Then as her illness prolonged and friends and neighbours came to visit, the farmer butchered the pig to feed his growing number of guests. Sadly, the farmer's wife got increasingly worse and eventually died. So that the many people who came to show their respects would have enough to eat, the cow had to be slaughtered.

Isn't it interesting how suddenly calamity can overtake the most unsuspecting of us! The most predictable thing about life is probably how unpredictable it truly is. Someone can be in an exalted position today and tomorrow be defamed, while another who is down and out one minute may find himself on top of the world the next minute. That's why we should have a heart for hurting people.

I believe one of the reasons God allows us to go through difficult times is so that we could genuinely sympathize with those who hurt. How else would we be able to enter into another's suffering and feel that person's pain if we ourselves have never personally experienced pain? But when we see where that person is and we remember our having been there, our heart instantly goes out to them and our gut reaction is to reach out and do all within our power to relieve their suffering.

I have discovered that we never have to look very far to find someone who is hurting. Not everybody will readily tell us of their pain, but when we have hearts that are sensitive to the needs of others, it won't be long before we realize that many a smiling face is hiding a weeping heart. That's why, while we are going through struggles, we need to keep reminding ourselves that it's not all about us. Overcoming hardships gives us the tools that are necessary to comfort and encourage and have true sympathy for the pain of others. We must never be so arrogant that we can't take the time to help somebody.