

could you paint my boat?

a man was called to the beach to paint a boat. he brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright, new red, as he was hired to do. as he painted the boat, he noticed that the paint was seeping through the bottom of the boat. he realized that there was a leak, and he decided to mend it. when the painting was done, he collected his money for the job and went away.

the following day the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a large check. the painter was surprised. "you have already paid me for painting the boat," he said.

"but this is not for the paint job. it is for mending the leak in the boat."

"that was so small a thing that i even did not want to charge you for it. surely you are not paying me this huge amount for so small a thing?"

"my dear friend, you do not understand. let me tell you what happened."

"when i asked you to paint the boat i had forgotten to mention to you about the leak. when the boat was nice and dry, my children took the boat and went fishing. when i found that they had gone out in the boat, i was frantic for i remembered that the boat had a leak!

imagine my relief and happiness when i saw them coming back safe and sound. i examined the boat and saw that

you had repaired the leak.

now you see what you have done?

you have saved the lives of my children! i haven't enough money to repay you for your 'little' good deed..."

-- nissan mindel

moral of the story:

so, no matter who, when, or how... just continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find, because you never know when one is in need of us or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.

along the way, you may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' for several people without realizing how many lives you've save.

make a difference....

we followers of Christ are in the "mending" business - the mending of lives. sometimes it is just a word of encouragement, sometimes it requires more of one's self. be it our possessions or actions, "do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it." prov 3:27 that's something the Lord taught me many years ago. it's

something we all need to learn.

the world's way is to get all you can and can all you get. the Lord's way? "give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. for with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." luke 6:38 our Lord has established a law of sowing and reaping. we who love Him always strive our best, expecting nothing in return. whether or reaping is in this life or the next, it will surely come.