

familiar friday - stop for the one

"but whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" 1 john 3:17

my friend was driving me home from a doctor's appointment the other day. as we turned the corner to go up my street, she saw what looked like a little boy pulling a wagon across the street. they were so small and frail she naturally assumed it was a child.

she hurriedly took me home and then asked her daughter to go out and check on the boy and see if he was lost or what. soon her daughter returned and said, "mom, that was no little boy. it was an old lady pulling the wagon with her possessions in it."

my friend has a genuine good heart. she immediately gathered up a few essentials that could easily be eaten without a stove or such, and had her daughter take them out to her. the lady was so grateful and expressed it to her daughter.

it turns out another "neighbor" called the police when they also witnessed the wandering woman. perhaps they summoned the police out of good intentions and perhaps they were afraid of vagrancy or robbery. God knows.

i thought of the story our Lord told of the good samaritan in luke 10. one walked on by someone in need while another stopped to help. i also thought of heidi baker of iris global missions and their outreach to "stop for the one."

that "one" might well be an "angel unaware." that "one" is definitely a one Jesus shed His blood for. at the very least, they are God's creation, in His image. "for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in." matt 25:35 doing it unto the one is as doing it unto Jesus.

so what do we have here? the one who saw nothing (unfortunately me). the one who reported them to authorities (for a motive we do not know). then we have the one, who seeing, chose to do something about it.

my friend is indeed a very special person. she has a good heart and always tries to help someone in need, often to her own hurt. she mentioned to me the other day when another of her fiends commented, "you are certainly going straight to heaven." my comment to her was: "if our works depended on it you certainly would, but we all need a savior." fortunately she has a Savior. she is a "martha" in the kingdom of God. perhaps we all most admire mary, the worshiper, but scripture says Jesus loved martha as well. and yes, martha's are needed. she has indeed been an angel in my life as well as others, but we all know that isn't enough.

i have a prayer for us today. "Father, give me not only eyes which see, give me the will and boldness to do what You would, recognizing always You enable me to will and to do. i trust Your Spirit and discernment to guide me each step i take. i know there is much evil

being manifest these days, but i trust that if any unexpected consequences arise, You have a purpose in that too. the only reason for the next breath i take is that Jesus be manifested in me. make it so. Lord. make it so. in Your holy name i pray."

-----

addendum to today's repeat. my friend is still a martha, an energizer bunny that keeps on going. and yes, she still loves and serves our Lord, perhaps with lessons we could all learn from. "for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." james 2:26