

Tuesday - March 17

When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.
Job 2:11-13 (NIV)

That evening started with me sitting in my car, waiting for the rain to stop so I could go into the supermarket. Several hours later, I found myself sitting on the floor of my friend's apartment, his roommate and I trying to convince him that his life was too meaningful to end now. We stayed up most of the night with him until his mind cleared and we knew he was no longer a danger to himself for the time being. We weren't trained experts; we were simply friends showing someone we cared about them.

If it hadn't been raining, I wouldn't have waited in my car. If I hadn't waited, I wouldn't have texted my friend. If I hadn't texted him at that moment, I wouldn't have gone to check on him. If I wouldn't have checked on him as his roommate was leaving, I wouldn't have been able to get inside. If I wouldn't have gone inside, we wouldn't have found him trying to kill himself. One small, insignificant moment started a chain of events that eventually saved a life.

You don't always see God standing beside you in times of trial until long after those moments have already passed. It seems so often that the stories we tell years later started by God laying a path before us, sometimes through what starts as the smallest acts of compassion and empathy for someone else. Who is God calling you towards? What path is God laying at your feet?

Drew

Prayer: Great Architect and Creator, we cannot come close to understanding the experiences that You lay before us in our lives. You remind us that nothing is more powerful than being there for each other in moments of darkness and despair, just as we later recognize You were there for us in those very same moments in our own lives. Watch over us, protect, and guide us. Open our hearts and minds so that we can take Your love for us and share it with those we encounter in our daily lives. In the name of Your son, who came to show us what friendship and kindness truly looks like. Amen.