

## Friday - March 12

*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

*Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)*

*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

*Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)*

As life moves along, we all experience trials and happenings we want to move past. Covid is probably not our first challenge. An example in my life relates to the above verses.

When I had started my first job after college, I remember my mother suggesting to me that whenever I had some free time, I should visit someone in a nursing home. She said they would enjoy my company. It sounded boring, and surely I could make more exciting plans. But her words rolled around in my mind, never quite leaving me. As I came to find that I did have time, some of it lonely, her words resounded in me. Looking back, I think that she anticipated I would experience loneliness and was trying to provide a suggestion for me to overcome it.

At the time, I knew an older woman I had chatted with at church but didn't know well. She had been hospitalized and did not have nearby family. It was intimidating at first to think of what we might talk about since I thought we had little in common. Influenced by my father, who read articles on the radio station for the blind, I took the newspaper with me to the hospital. As I visited with my new acquaintance, I realized talk was not terribly important. She seemed to enjoy just my presence and that I thought enough of her to be with her. So from then on, I visited without conversation props. I, too, enjoyed just her presence.

This led to my future long participation in both Stephen Ministry and Christ Care. Both programs are designed to comfort and show concern for those going through difficulties, but I have also found that they have been rewarding to me.

As the verse reminds us, you are blessed when you are helping others. I am so grateful to my mother for subtly pointing me to something so enjoyable that God blesses also.

Arlene

**Prayer:** O God, thank you for blessing us with the wisdom of others and helping us live out the ministry of presence. Amen.