

Thursday - March 16

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

While on a summer vacation many years ago when my kids were young, we pulled off the highway and there was a homeless man on the corner with a sign asking for help. I didn't look his way. I was almost locked in fear and just could not look at him. I think I just didn't know what to do or how to respond and how would I explain my actions to my kids if I did act in mercy towards this man. Instead of helping and making this a teachable moment for my kids - I did nothing. That experience made me feel guilty. I made a decision to help similar people in the future when I could.

A few summers ago, a similar man holding a sign for help was on the corner a mile from my house. I had seen him several times at this corner, but was always too far back in line when the light turned red. When the light turned green, I was on my way and again felt bad for not helping. I turned around at the next block to return to this man. I stopped my car in the center turn lane and walked towards the man in need. He saw me coming and started to walk towards me. I planned to give him \$20 and wish him well in some way. As I handed out the \$20 ready to say "take care" or "God bless," he said, "God bless you" to me. I was not expecting that. I was really moved by his words to me. The more I thought about it, the more I realized this person was certainly thankful to God for those that showed mercy to help him in his time of need. God was so present in this experience. I see God the most when I humble myself to see what God wants me to see, say, or do.

Bill

Prayer: Loving Father God, continue to pour out Your spirit to us so that we can continue to see You in the world around us. Help us to be Your hands and feet in the world. Help us lift You up in our words, actions, and deeds. Amen.