

## Friday - March 31

*He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

*Luke 10:27 (NIV)*

Every year at Christmas, I watch *It's A Wonderful Life* and tear up at the end when George's neighbors replace the money his business has lost. These ordinary people don't hesitate to do the right thing and love their neighbor. The film reminds me of the one stoplight town where I grew up. In a small town, everyone is kind and looks out for one another because everyone IS your neighbor. When a neighbor's barn burned down, we took up a collection and built a new barn. During one surprise snowstorm, we housed all the kids on the school bus that couldn't get home. Casseroles were automatic for every birth, funeral, and wedding. When I visit my parents, the small-town kindness is still present today.

I see God's presence when I experience myself or others offering or receiving acts of kindness. Living in a larger city, I still have the motivation to spread kindness, but I get busy with so many distractions around me. I am more intentional in looking for opportunities to extend kindness to others, no matter how small or big. God is present in these intentional acts of kindness whether it is on the highway when I slow down and let someone merge in front of me in traffic or when someone in the queue buys my coffee. Loving our neighbors through kindness makes a difference in someone else's world as well as our own.

Karen

**Prayer:** God, thank you for Your never-ending kindness toward me. Open my eyes to the needs of my neighbors and extend my hand, so that they may see You in my kind words and actions. Amen.