

## God Will Give You Life

By Santiago Lange



In the movie, *As Good as It Gets*, Jack Nicholson portrays a rather unfit person. He is dysfunctional emotionally as well as socially, and is without friends and hope, until he meets a young woman who serves him in a local restaurant. She, unlike others before her, put up with a great deal. Eventually, she shows him some consideration and he responds in like manner and they develop intimacy of relationship as the movie ends. Just as the young waitress showed Jack Nicholson some degree of mercy that he did not deserve, so we in our Christian walk receive mercy from God. Miguel de Cervantes, the great Spanish author of *Don Quixote* fame, wrote that *"among the attributes of God, mercy shines with even more brilliancy than justice."*

Grace IS getting something, we don't deserve. Mercy is NOT getting something we do deserve. We tend to embrace a friend who is going through some calamity of life. We might even whisper in their ears, "It's going to be all right." Theologically, we are on target with such a statement. However difficult the situation, the Christian alone is able to say that things are going to turn out all right and that no matter what God's mercy will shine brilliantly.

Psalm 103:10-14 reads:

God does not treat us as our sins deserve,  
Nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
So great is His love for those who fear Him;  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far as He removed our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so, the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.  
For He knows how we are formed;  
He remembers that we are dust.

During a severe drought in the land, God told Elijah the prophet to go to the Brook Cherith so that he could drink, and God sent the ravens to feed him. God took care of His servant.

God will take care of you and me out of the abundance of His riches. That's what Paul wrote to the church of Philippi: *"My God shall supply your every need according to his riches in glory."* It was true for the Philippians, and it's true for us.

Jesus, in the sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6, declared starting in verse 25:

*Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes? Look at the*

*birds of the air. They do not sow or reap or store away in barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*

God also demonstrated that He would take care of Elisha when Elisha couldn't take care of himself. King Ben Hadad had mustered the armies of Syria against Israel. Each time he attacked, somehow the armies of Israel had been prepared for his advance. He thought there was a spy in the camp so he gathered his generals and he said "Who is the spy among us?" One said, "My lord, it is the prophet Elisha. He is able to know before the king himself knows the plans you are going to make." So, king Ben Hadad started off with all of his armies to advance on Dothan, the home of Elisha. Can we imagine what must it have looked like? "Hail, king Bed Hadad! Where are you going?" The king replied, "We're going to capture the little prophet Elisha." When he came to Dothan, his great army circled the home of the prophet. Elisha's young servant went out to fetch water and when he saw all the armies he panicked and ran back to Elisha and said, "Master, the armies of Syria are amassed against us. What are we to do?" Elisha said, "Don't worry. They that be for us are more than they that be for them." The young man must have thought, "Great, here I have a huge army outside, and a lunatic here on the inside with me." But Elisha prayed, "Lord, open the young man's eyes that he might see." God opened his eyes, and he saw that around the army of Syria were the Lord's army and a multitude of chariots of fire.

The message of Holy Scripture is surely this: if you feel you have lost heart in the journey, that circumstances have driven you into the pit, when you understand that you have no resources to help yourself, God's message is that He will take you up. He will bring you joy. He will give YOU life. You are His beloved. Never forget it. Trust in Him! □