



HIS CARE HELPS US CARE

(This drama will require three actors and a large cross.)

Narrator: Often in life we take for granted the faithful care of our loving Heavenly Father. The following Scripture reading will help set the stage for our meditation that will be in drama form. The reading is taken from 1 Peter 5:7, *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* The scene for our devotional time is Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The characters you will meet are Pastor Kross and the church janitor, Mrs. Kare. As the scene opens, Pastor Kross is setting up the cross for the evening Lenten Service.

Mrs. Kare: *(Comes in pushing the vacuum)* Good morning, Pastor.

Pastor Kross: Well, good morning, Mrs. Kare. Looks like you're going to be doing some vacuuming - for tonight's service, maybe?

Mrs: Yes, Pastor. How did you know?

Pastor: Just a lucky guess. And how's Mr. Kare doing today?

Mrs: Oh, Pastor, that old arthritis - it really is getting him down. He's so stiff in the morning that he can't get moving to do anything. He really needs a lot of help and care for just the everyday things.

Pastor: What a blessing that he has you then to care for him.

Mrs: I always say that's why the Lord put us together. My head doesn't always work the way I'd like it to, and George's body doesn't work the way he'd like it to. Between the two of us, we feel like we might make up one good person.
(Laughing)

Pastor: *(Chuckling also)* That's a good way to look at it, Ida. I admire both of your attitudes. That's what having the Lord in your heart does - it improves the way you look at and handle situations. And speaking of situations, how is the daughter-in-law of yours doing with her situation? Is she still helping to care for her mother?

Mrs: Oh, that's another long story, Pastor. Peggy's mother's cancer has advanced to the point that she needs constant care. Peggy spends most of her time with her. They have what's called hospice care to help, but it still is a burden on the one who is there all the time.

Pastor: Well, I have kept Peggy and her mother in my prayers. Would it be okay if I share a prayer in church for them?

Mrs: Why, Pastor, thank you. That would mean so much to Peggy if you would. We both know what the power of prayer can do, don't we?

Pastor: Indeed, Ida. It builds us up, strengthens us and helps us to deal with our situation, whatever it is. When people pray for us, it also shows us that others care. It's amazing, isn't it, Ida, how many people need our care, and how we, in turn, need each other's care. Peggy depends upon the hospice people, her mother depends upon her, you depend upon George, and he on you. I know I'd never get through tax season without my wife. I tell her every year that I don't know what I'd do if she didn't do the taxes. I'd never handle it without her!

Mrs: *(Laughing)* I know what you mean, Pastor.

Pastor: People do depend upon each other for various kinds of care. But you know, Ida, the really amazing thing is how all of us Christians depend upon a special Someone, our Lord, for the care that we need every day.

Mrs: Yes, Pastor. Every day I thank the dear Lord above for watching over us. George wouldn't have the will to get out of bed some days, but the Lord keeps him going.

Pastor: We're all like that in some ways, Ida. We all look to God for help in our areas of weakness. For some of us, we struggle with health problems; for some, the problem is depression; for others, it may be family problems; and some struggle with worry. We all have our weaknesses that continually bring us back to the Lord for strength. Then there is our greatest need - one that we all have in common, Ida. Do you know what need I'm talking about?

Mrs: I know what you're trying to say, Pastor. It's forgiveness for our sins. That's the greatest need we have.

Pastor: You hit the nail on the head, Ida. Forgiveness for our sins is the greatest need we have, and Christ cared enough to deal with our need when He died on that forsaken cross for us. We had a need and Christ dealt with it. He gave us His life, because He cared for us. Just like Peggy gives up individual achievement or pleasure to care for her mother - because she loves her. Christ gave up everything - because He loves us.

Mrs: That's right, Pastor. Sometimes I forget how much that word "care" applies to Jesus. I guess our care doesn't even compare to the care the Lord gives.

Pastor: Maybe we can use the passage in Scripture that says, *We love, because he first loved us* to help us understand. We can substitute the word "care" and say, "We care, because He first cared for us." That little comparison makes me think of this cross I'm fixing up for our service tonight. You see, there are two pieces that make up a cross. You couldn't have this cross piece without the up and down piece. You wouldn't have anything to hang it on or attach it to. In order to use the cross piece, you have to have this vertical piece.

Mrs: Yes, but what does that have to do with what we were talking about?

Pastor: Well, sometimes when we talk about the cross in church, we use the vertical piece to remind us of whom?

Mrs: God, and our relationship to Him.

Pastor: That's right. And who is the cross piece?

Mrs: We are.

Pastor: Right again. Well, if we are that cross piece, and God is the vertical piece, we need Him to make us what we are to be. We would be nothing without Christ to hang on to, just like the cross piece would be just a piece of wood without the vertical piece. We need Him to lean on - we have to be attached to Him.

Mrs: That's a good example, Pastor. It makes me think about us and our caring for others. In the same way that Jesus gave Himself because He cared for us, we can give of ourselves because we care for others.

Pastor: Exactly, Ida. You have given a wonderful explanation. Which piece is the most important piece in the cross?

Mrs: That's obvious, Pastor - the up and down piece. Just like the Lord is the most important.

Pastor: So the next time George needs your help with his physical limitations, and the next time I need my wife's assistance with financial concerns, we should both think about how we need the Lord. He does so graciously care for us.

Mrs: You can be sure I will, Pastor.

Pastor: Well, Ida, you just helped me put my sermon together for this evening. It's amazing what conversation with a fellow Christian can accomplish.

Mrs: Yes, I'm sure glad we had this conversation, too. I better get back to my vacuuming and you to your sermon or we won't be done in time for the service!

HIS CARE HELPS US CARE - *Written by* Kathy Ericksen
Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Revised 2005