

Open Wide The Door Of Faith

Betty

Rina was a much disciplined person, extremely strict in her eating habits to maintain a highly organic and healthy diet in her own sense, and always wanted to be in control of everything (including people).

The story was that Rina had an urgent issue that needed help shortly. She e-mailed to her sister Adele for help but was told that she was not available. Helen, Rina's friend, later was able to come to her aid.

Rina was very furious at Adele and refused to talk to her for a few days. A week later, an e-mail was sent to Adele from Rina stating three "very important" points as quoted from Rina:

1. You (Adele) should not refuse help to me as I had given you help before.
2. You, as a Catholic, should come to my aid whatsoever, since my friend Helen, who is a non-Catholic, came instead.
3. You should repent for all the wrongs you had done to me this time. However out of my generosity, you were now forgiven.

Rina's frustration was understood. However, if we had in mind somebody has to return the favour or offer a reward in due course, we might need to rethink over Jesus' teaching about almsgiving that "...when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Mt.6:3-4)

Sometimes help just come in least expected ways. We just need to have faith and open our hearts to accept the grace that is bestowed upon us. A lot of times things might not be happening within plans, but if we accept the outcome with gratefulness, we can always perceive God's plans are always the best for us. Never fear the detour, for if only we believe, what are we to worry about?

We are all God's people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. We become hands and feet of Christ when we answer His call. It is sometimes hard to recognize God's light shedding on shadowy areas – like Helen. If we could just kindle a little fire, or plant a little seed by giving thanks and praise to the Lord's saving hands, we are nourishing the Kingdom of God. For

that to happen, we need to sharpen our ears to listen, to open wide our eyes keep watch and in times of discernment – to open our hearts and pray.

Anger and hatred could only lead to destruction of integrity and poor judgement of other's deeds and behaviour, even overlooking God's grace.

Forgiveness given under such retaliated emotion is not forgiveness. Rather, we might probably have elevated ourselves to become our own "God" and passed judgement instead. If we take a closer look at the story, Rina was simply saying that her sister Adele was totally wrong and unforgivable and only out of her kindness (as she was God), Adele sins were forgiven.

It is always so easy to fall into our own self-centered trap to become "Rina", refusing to open our doors of faith, and sneaking in just a little straight light to fit our own narrow expectation. The tangible world always challenged us to control our own fate, trust our own self, rather than letting God to be in charge and lead us with His light.

The final page of the story was, one day, as healthy and so much in control as Rina did, she was diagnosed with a terminal illness and had just months to live.

Everything was much out of control and she had every feeling that God was unjust.

Leave me thinking –

When shall we start to open wide our door of faith and feed our soul more with the teaching of Christ than worrying about what we have to put into our body? As Jesus has taught us, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?.....But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

(Mt. 6:25-33)

