

CHALLENGING THE STORM

Author Bruce Thielemann tells a gripping story of a church elder who showed what it means to follow Jesus.

A terrible ice storm had hit Pittsburgh, making travel almost impossible. At the height of the storm, a church family called their pastor about an emergency. Their little boy had leukemia and he had taken a turn for the worse. The hospital said to bring the boy in, but they could not send an ambulance, and the family did not own a car.

The pastor's automobile was in the shop, so he called a church elder, who immediately got in his car and began the treacherous journey. The brakes in his car were nearly useless. It was so slick that he could not halt for stop signs or traffic lights. He had three minor accidents on the way to the family's home.



When he arrived, the parents brought out the little boy wrapped in a blanket. His mother got in the front seat and held her son, and the father sat in the back. Ever so slowly, they drove to the hospital. Thielemann wrote:

They came to the bottom of a hill and as they managed to skid to a stop, he tried to decide whether he should make the grade on the other side, or whether he should go to the right and down the valley to the hospital. And as he was thinking about this, he chanced to look to the right and he saw the face of the little boy. The youngster's face was flushed, and his eyes wide with fever and with fear.

To comfort the child, he reached over and tousled his hair. Then it was that the little boy said to him, "Mister, are you Jesus?" Do you know in that moment he could have said yes. For him to live was Jesus Christ. People who piddle around with life never know moments like that.

Yes, loving as Jesus loved requires courage and sacrifice.

I am pleased to see, as I walk the halls of our nursing centers, associates who love as Jesus loved.

In Matthew 25, Jesus was describing those who would inherit the kingdom because they addressed the needs of those who were hungry, or who needed lodging, clothing or a visit because they were sick or in prison. "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me," Jesus said.

Be encouraged today because of your ministry to those who come to us with needs. It is noticed by Jesus.

– Beecher Hunter