

God Is Waiting

Jane Welsh, secretary to Scottish essayist Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), married him and devoted her life to him and his work. He loved her deeply, but was so busy with his writing and speaking that he often neglected her. Some time into their marriage, she became ill and suddenly died.

In a book by John Ortberg, pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in California, he writes that after the funeral Carlyle went alone to Jane's room and looked at her diary. He found these words that she had written about him: "Yesterday he spent an hour with me and it was like heaven. I love him so."

On another day, she wrote: "I have listened all day to hear his steps in the hall, but now it is late. I guess he will not come today." Carlyle wept brokenly, realizing his neglect of her and her desire just to talk with him.

That experience is instructive for us. Sometimes, we get too busy being busy, and forget – temporarily, at least – about the people who are close to us, whose love and friendship are priceless. To that charge, I plead guilty. We must value and cherish the relationships that are important to us, and never take them for granted.

In the spiritual realm, we must understand that God loves us dearly, and waits for us to have fellowship with Him. He welcomes our worship, our prayers, our praise. He listens attentively for our call, our cry, our petition.

How often does He wait in vain?

--Beecher Hunter