

The Challenge in the Snow

A man named Sundar became a convert to Christianity and decided to stay in India to be a missionary and bear witness to Jesus.

One late afternoon, Sundar was traveling on foot high in the Himalaya Mountains with a Buddhist monk. It was bitter cold, and the night was coming on. The monk warned that they were in danger of freezing to death if they did not reach the monastery before the darkness fell.

It so happened, as they crossed over a narrow path above a steep cliff, they heard a cry for help. Deep down in the ravine, a man had fallen, and he lay wounded. One leg was broken and he couldn't walk. So the monk warned Sundar, "Do not stop. God has brought this man to his fate. He must work it out by himself. That is the tradition. Let us hurry on before we perish."

But Sundar replied, "It is my tradition now that God has brought me here to help my brother. I cannot abandon him."

So the monk set off through the snow, which had started to fall heavily.

Sundar climbed down to where the wounded man was lying. Since the man had a broken leg, Sundar took a blanket from his knapsack and made a sling of it. He got the man into it and hoisted him onto his back, then began the painful and arduous climb back up the path. After a long time, drenched with perspiration, he finally got back to the path, struggling to make his way through the increasingly falling snow. It was dark now, and it was all he could do to find the path. But he persevered, and although faint from fatigue and overheated from exertion, Sundar finally saw the lights of the monastery.

Then he nearly stumbled and fell. Not from weakness; he stumbled over an object lying in the path. He bent down on one knee and brushed the snow from the body of the monk who had frozen to death within the sight of the monastery.

And there, kneeling on one knee in the snow, Sundar said aloud to himself the Scripture passage from Luke 9:24: "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it." Sundar then understood what Jesus meant and was glad that he had decided to "lose his life" for another.

Years later, some of Sundar's disciples asked him this question: "Teacher, what is life's most difficult task?" Sundar replied: "To have no burden to carry."

By the world's view, associates of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home may be losing out on pursuits of pleasure, intrigue and drama that beckon their involvement. But in "losing" their lives for the sakes of others, they find true contentment and peace afforded by following God's will.

– Beecher Hunter