

The Eyes of a Horseman

Many years ago, an old man stood on a Virginia riverbank. He was waiting to cross the river, and since it was bitterly cold and there were no bridges, he was hoping to get a ride across on horseback.

After a lengthy wait, he spotted a group of horsemen approaching. He let the first one pass, then the second, third, fourth and fifth. One rider remained.

As he drew abreast, the old man looked him in the eyes and said, "Sir, would you give me a ride across the river?"

The rider immediately replied, "Certainly."

Once across the river, the old man slid to the ground.

"Sir," the rider said before leaving, "I could not help but notice that you permitted all the other men to pass without asking for a ride. Then, when I drew abreast, you immediately asked me to carry you across. I am curious as to why you didn't ask them and you did ask me."

The old man quietly responded, "I looked into their eyes and could see no love and knew in my own heart it would be useless to ask for a ride. But when I looked into your eyes, I saw compassion, love and the willingness to help. I knew you would be glad to give me a ride across the river."

The rider was touched. "I'm grateful for what you are saying," he said. "I appreciate it very much."

With that, Thomas Jefferson turned and rode off to the White House.

It is often quoted that our eyes are the windows to our souls. Henry Drummond, Scottish evangelist, biologist, writer and lecturer, said this: "The moments when you have really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love."

In the *Life Care Journey* orientation program, I remind attendees that they are keepers of the Life Care lighthouse – an analogy because there are people living in a dark, lonely, confused world looking to that beacon of hope shining from our centers. And that light is love. It is the basis of our identity and of what we do.

Some see it in the things we do and in the things we say. And a few perceptive souls, like the old man in the story, may catch a glimmer of a loving and generous spirit in the expression of kind eyes, eager to help.

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35 NKJV).