

The Stain on the Wall

In a small pub in the highlands of Scotland, a group of fishermen gathered one afternoon and were enjoying a round of ale. Just as one was showing, with his hands, how big one fish was that got away, a waitress passed. His hand hit a glass of ale she was carrying on a tray, and some of the dark brew spilled on the white wall of the pub.

It began to run down. The waitress hastily took a cloth from her apron and began to wipe, but the ale had left an ugly, dark stain.

At another table, a man rose and came over. He took a crayon from his pocket and – as all in the pub watched – began to sketch around the stain. In a few moments, he had drawn the head of a magnificent stag with spreading antlers. Under his hand, the mistake had become a thing of beauty. The artist was Sir Edwin Landseer, at that time England's foremost painter of animals.

Mistakes occur in our lives. And yet, it seems that there are those who can take a mistake, turn it around, and make something good come from it.

God specializes in taking lemons and making lemonade from them. Over and over in my life, I have personally observed His hand at work in the restoration process. Time and again, I have stubbed my toe and fallen flat on my face. But because of His grace, His mercy and His love, He picks me up and sets me aright.

Further, the blood spilled by Christ at Calvary covers the ugly, dark stain of sin in our lives. Praise be to God!

--Beecher Hunter