

Tying Leaves to the Tree

A woman became very ill. After a time of hospitalization, she returned home, but was confined to bed. Her daughter, 8, was not aware of the terminal status of the illness.

The little girl stood outside the bedroom door one afternoon as the doctor, along with her father, visited her mother. She overheard the doctor say, "Yes, I will be frank with you. The time is not too far off. Before the last leaves have gone from the trees, you will die."

The little girl's presence was not detected.



Sometime later, the father came to the breakfast table to find that his little girl was not there as he had expected. After searching for her, he saw her out in the front yard.

His heart was broken as he watched her picking up leaves that had begun to fall. She was using thread to tie them back onto the limbs of the tree.

The story shows:

1. The powerful love of the little girl for her mother.
2. Her futile attempt to hold back death.

Death, of course, is a part of our lives. There is an appointed hour – although we do not know when it will be – that death will knock at our door. We see it happen, not only in our own families, but with the residents we serve.

The most important question, however, is not when death will come to claim us, but: Will you be ready?

And to be ready is only through the grace of God – faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, Who is the way into Heaven and eternal life.

– Beecher Hunter