

(talking on the phone) Yes Mom that's hard to believe, Doreen said losing her patience.. I mean this kind of thing happens in big cities but someone from our own Candle Falls, said Matilda.

U huh, Dorey replied absently.

And Dorey, you went to school with him didn't you?

He was a year behind me Mom, Dorey said, but I knew him.

Keith Loshart a street person! I can't believe it.

I've got to go Mom.

Ok, I'll call you later, said Matilda.

We'll be out, replied Dorey, so we'll call you.

Ok, love ya Dorey.

Love ya too Mom.

Dorey hangs up and says to her husband. She's getting more and more of an old gossip. Her husband replies, She's got a lot of time on her hands and doesn't have any hobbies, what do you expect?

Sunday Matilda was in church.

**Pastor Snerdgrass said,** <sup>34</sup>*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!* <sup>35</sup>*See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'*"

So here, the pastor said, Jesus' heart is breaking. He sees people who desperately need his help, but they turn him away. The same thing happens today. People are going through terrible things, just terrible things. Sometimes it's their own fault; and sometimes it's just because they are in the wrong place at the wrong time. They are people who think, no one in the world cares about them. If they could just see Jesus' love for them it would make all the difference.

As Matilda was leaving the church she shook Pastor Snerdgrass' hand. Nice sermon pastor. Thank you, Matilda, you have a good day.

Later at the Country Kitchen Matilda's friend Tiffany said to her. That was a good sermon today. Matilda said, It's about time don't you think; they both laughed.

Matilda said, you're right it was a good sermon, but it's so sad.

What do you mean asked Tiffany.

Those poor people, they're having such a tough and they don't know the love of Jesus, said Matilda.

And they won't see Jesus until they can say, "*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord*", replied Tiffany.

Matilda said, But you can't say "*Blessed is the one* until you believe in Jesus.

Well giving faith, that's the Holy Spirit's job. Ain't nothing we can do about that, said Tiffany.

Nothing we can do about it, Matilda whispered to herself.

What'd you say, asked Tiffany.

O nothing said Matilda. When is that waitress gonna bring our Bacon skillet?

That night the Bacon skillet came back to visit Matilda. O, I should have ordered the Calico bean soup she said. I'll never get to sleep.

She thought, Pastor Snerdgrass always says. "*When you can't get to sleep it's because God wants to talk with you, so you should pray*". Well it's worth a try it's too early to get up. Then Tiffany's words came back to her, along with the skillet: "That's the Holy Spirit's job ain't nothing we can do about it".

Well we'll see. I guess it won't hurt anything. Dear God, please send your Holy Spirit so that Keith will know your love in Jesus Christ. That's got to help him. God knows, I mean, you know he needs all the help he can get. And God, help me get back to sleep. Amen. Matilda fell asleep. She didn't think about Keith Loshart, the street person or her prayer for a long time.

6 months later, Tiffany called her. Did you hear about that Loshart boy? What? His mother is so excited, he checked himself into some kind of clinic. They are doing wonders to help him. He might be coming home soon.

Wow, imagine that, Matilda said. That doesn't happen every...  
You can say that again said Tiffany. Say, I've got to call Clarisse. Talk to you later by.  
Bye said Matilda.

Wow, imagine that, she said to herself remembering the prayer she had prayed. Could it be? Na! But, you never know.

It was a couple of weeks later, late one night, she couldn't get to sleep. It must have been that meatloaf; it kept coming back at her. I'll never get to sleep she said. Then she remembered Pastor Snerdgrass, *"if you can't get to sleep God is probably trying to tell you something."* She also remembered Martha Seaward's grand daughter the guidance counselor. Martha said that her granddaughter was all upset. She was working with this young girl whose parents were constantly fighting. The girl was a nervous wreck. Such a sad situation Matilda thought. I wish there was something I could do... Then she said to herself, well it couldn't hurt.

Dear God, please help that couple learn to get along. Help them to see what they are doing to their little girl. Lord it would certainly help if they could see how you could help them through this. And Lord, help me get some sleep.

The next day and for the next two weeks before Matilda went to bed, she said a prayer for that couple and the little girl. After two weeks, two strange things happened. Martha told Matilda that she talked to her granddaughter about that girl. Her grand daughter said she didn't know what happened. The girl doesn't come to see her anymore but her teachers say she is doing just fine. The other strange thing was that no matter what Matilda seems to eat these days she sleeps like a baby.

Tiffany called Matilda. Did you here about that new waitress at the Candle light? The cute redhead, asked Matilda. O, I'm just sure she dyes it said Tiffany.  
Is that the big news, asked Matilda?  
No, silly, said Tiffany, Word is she has a drinking problem. That's too bad, said Matilda.  
Well I've got to go; lots of calls to make. Good Bye.  
Bye said Matilda.

The phone rang again.

Hi Mom.

O, Hi Dorey, how are you honey?

I'm fine Mom. I was wondering about you. What's the news around Candle Falls?

Not much, she said.

Are you alright Mom? You don't gos I mean, you don't talk about oth, I mean, uh,.

I'm doing just fine dear. I'm getting old, some aches and pains and I don't see enough of you but I'm fine, Matilda said.

Well, we'll stop off to see you this weekend, Mom.

That would be great.

Good bye Mom.

Good bye dear.

That night before bed Matilda said her prayers. She prayed for her family and friends and for the waitress. Lord I don't know if that girl has a problem or not but I pray that you would watch over her and help her to know you love her and care about her.

The next morning, while she was listening to the news on that radio, the announcement came in: Shirley Sakays died early this morning. She was in a auto accident crossing Hwy 51. She apparently went through a red light.

Matilda turned off the radio and cried. She was mad and sad. Such a waste of a life that had just begun, she said. But she didn't stop praying. She wasn't much for spreading the news anymore. She listened to the news around Candle Falls but she found something better to occupy her time with.

Late one night, Matilda prayed. Oh Dear Jesus I know that you long to help us, as you said just as hen gathers her brood under her wing, you long to help us. The problem Lord is when we don't want your help, when we turn away from you and try to do our own thing. You say that no one will see you until the day when they can say, Blessed is the name of the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

(YELLING)But how are we supposed to see you and believe in you, unless you send your Holy Spirit to us.

Sorry I yelled Lord, I guess I'm supposed to do my part and you will do your part. Please send out your spirit to me and those who don't yet believe in you or who have forgotten about you. Help me to do what I can to get your message out. Then maybe they'll see you and believe in you and seek your help.

(pause)

Oh, I almost forgot, help me get back to sleep, that chicken gravy is keeping (burp), keeping me up.

Amen.