

APPOINTMENTS

“To every creature”. Mark 16:15

Not the garbage man

June 9, 2021

Driving home just after noon, I could see half of a sticking out of the dumpster at my place. A black jeep out windows and no rear license plate.

As I passed him I looked for a front license plate,

I parked my car in front of someone else's home so He where I lived.

I grabbed my phone and walked back to the dumpster still gainfully at work.

“Hello!”

I held up my cellphone deliberately to let him see me taking a picture of him to warn him off.

He popped out, saying "Well, I could be breaking into your car or your house but I'm not, I'm just going through the garbage."

"Do you know how much God loves you? He's crazy about you. He doesn't want you to have to go through the garbage to make do, He wants to bless you. Isn't it time to get to know Him?"

Very soon we were holding hands and praying, and now I have another new brother.

He actually told me his true name, and of course I googled it and found a nice little rap sheet and mugshot. If I had known that, would I have approached him?

Absolutely. But wasn't my original intent to run him off! Yes.

It took a moment for it to dawn on me: Appointment.



man, the legs,
with blacked

none.

wouldn't know

where he was

“lift up your eyes and look” John 4:35

Here, Now:

He was sitting on the bus bench with his head in his hands as I drove past and heard "Go back and tell him." I've heard this many, many times, Appointments.

I was on my way to church on time and I didn't want to look bad being late. I cared much more about how I looked than that man's eternal life.

I kept driving for at least 10 blocks and God kept saying "Come on now, turn around and tell him!" Here's a lesson to remember: the longer you delay and farther away you are and the longer it will take you to go back and *care*.

Finally, I turned around and parked, and sat next to him.

"Hey"

"Hey"

"How you doing?"

He mumbled something.

That's usually how it starts.

"God told me to turn around and come back to tell you how you. He never takes His eyes off you."

"Wow."

"Yeah, He made you and He has great plans for you."

"Wow, that's cool."

"Yeah. He's with you, He wants you to know Him, and Jesus wants to save you. Have you ever asked Jesus to come into your heart and be your Lord and Savior?"

"No."

"Do you want to now? Now's a real good time."

"Wow, yeah."

Then I held out my hands and he took them and we prayed.

He was ecstatic, he just kept saying "Wow!" and he was really, really pleased.

"I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' Isaiah 65:1

God has Plans, God makes the Appointments, the Spirit has prepared everything, and all you do is make yourself available.

It's that easy.

And fun.

You've got appointments, *show up*.



much He loves

I can barely, breathlessly make it to my weekend. Truthfully, I run out of breath.

Finally, weekends in the Garden with the Gardener. No voices other than butterflies, the birds, Him.

Suddenly in my mind: you better get to the store!!! What? I don't need anything. I have everything I need and no reason to go out my front door and leave the garden today.

You better get to the store!!! And I repeat this conversation in my head not realizing it's not in my head, it's in my Spirit and it is Him.

Well, OK, I'll go, (still not getting that it's not my mind, it's Him), and by the time I get there I'll think of something I need. I drive to Ericksons.

I see a purple Echinacea, a favorite. So, I put her in my basket and think "Lovely, now I can go home."

Then I see Nicolas, he has a deli bag in his hand and no way to pay for it and I love him dearly.

God loves him so dearly.

I couldn't have loved Nicolas more than if he had been a deli Rueben sandwich in that bag he held. I told him to give it to me, he did, then I (crafty me!) asked him to help me bring my plant to the car. He did. Much easier to pray in the parking lot than inside the store's queue. And we prayed.

I reminded him that we had met earlier [five years back] on the bus bench outside Ericksons and we prayed together and He asked Jesus to be His Lord and Savior.

His neck was salty. He was peaceful. *God is good.*

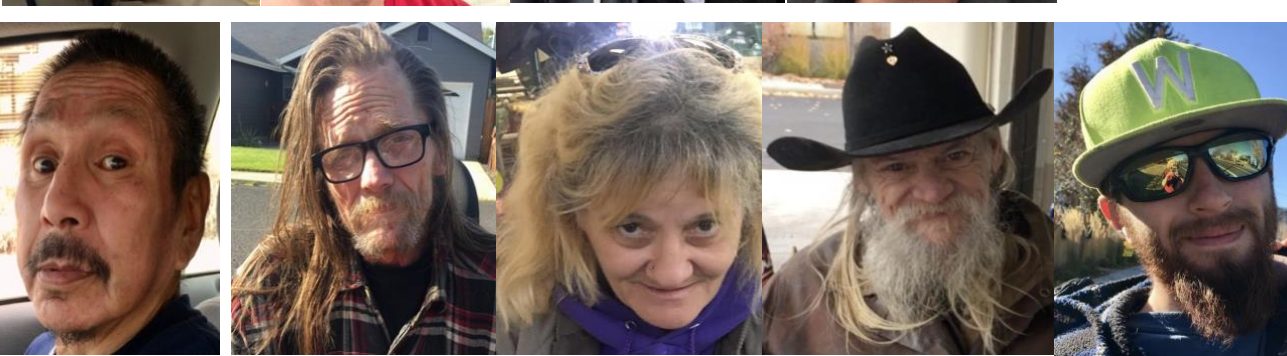
Yesterday morning I went to Harwood Park to find some friends I haven't seen for a while. There have recently been two suicides here and descriptions were heartbreaking and broke, the identities aren't yet revealed. And we never know, do we? I couldn't find them and my concern grew that one or both of those bodies found were my friends.

I did meet two new friends: Curt and Curtis, and that's good. I prayed with each of them. There was a body asleep on the grass who I thought was . . . but it wasn't and I didn't want to wake up a stranger.

I fix my heart to find my old friends and make new ones. God never disappoints me.

Appointments.







“Wherever you go, tell them....”

~ Mark 16:15 translation mine