



Traveling Angels



Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead the angels were given a space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always what they seem."

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning, the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

**When God says no,
many times it's
because He has
something better in
store for you.**



How would you react?

Joseph of Biblical fame suffered horrible things at the hands of his brothers. Thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, reported to his father as dead, it seemed God had deserted him.

In Egypt, however, he stayed close to God and found favor in the eyes of Pharaoh after being used by God to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, which warned of coming famine. As a result, Joseph was placed in charge of collecting grain before the famine, and dispensing it when hard times hit.

It was an ironic turn of events, then, when his brothers journeyed to Egypt to plead with the governor for grain to keep their family from dying of starvation. They did not recognize that the

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel, "How could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let their cow die."

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I told him to take the cow instead."

Sometimes we react just like the younger angel in this parable. But God has a higher purpose in what He does, one which we may not know until much later.

—*Author unknown*

**No matter what is
happening in your life,
know that God is
waiting for you with
open arms.**

governor was their own long-lost brother, but saw only a high-ranking Egyptian official.

After all they had done to him, Joseph could have refused or handled them harshly, with contempt. Instead, his response echoes through time as an example of forgiveness and seeing God's hand in our lives: "You meant it for evil," he said, "but God meant it for good, to save many people alive." No bitterness, no rancor, but a simple expression of faith in God's plan—one that is far greater than the intents of any man.

We who love God can also know that He never allows things in our lives without a reason. "God meant it for good."

—*Chloe West*