



Random Thoughts . . .

My Sweater



I have a sweater I never wear. It's too small. Some of the buttons are missing and the thread is frazzled. I should throw it away. I'll never wear it again. Logic says to clear out the space, get rid of the sweater. But love won't let me.

What's unusual about it? It wasn't produced on an assembly line. It's the creation of a devoted mother expressing her love. That sweater is unique. It's one of a kind. It can't be replaced. And although the sweater has lost all of its use, it's lost none of its value.

That must have been what the psalmist had in mind when he wrote, "You knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). You were knitted together. You aren't an accident. You weren't mass-produced. You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on this earth by the Master Craftsman.

Patience, Empathy, and Love

"Heavenly Father, help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother, worked nine hours that day, is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles, blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts You give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts, not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge, be quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love."

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