

Thought for the Day 2nd July - Megan Ryman

Grief can strike at any time. A disappointment, a sad memory, or the heartbreaking death of someone precious to us.

The Bible urges us to bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ, (Galatians 6:2). So many of our church family have had to endure the devastation of grief recently, but it has been difficult to bear one another's burdens with the COVID-19 isolation restrictions.

Joseph Scriven wrote the old hymn, 'What a Friend we have in Jesus'. He knew heartbreaking grief, losing two fiancées in tragic circumstances He emigrated to Canada from Ireland and spent his life ministering to the poor and disabled in the Port Hope district of Ontario.

When his mother took ill in Ireland, Joseph was unable to travel or send her material gifts. Instead he wrote and sent her this poem of comfort as a reminder Jesus was with her.

What a Friend we have in Jesus

All our sins and griefs to bear;

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer.

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear:

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged;

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

*Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.*

Prayer is a very special gift from God. We can talk to Him at any time, in any place and on any subject. He listens and hears us even when our hearts seem to be broken into a million pieces. He is our loving Heavenly Father and Almighty God, Creator and Lord of all.

A prayer in The Mother's Union In Australia Service and Prayer Book 1994(page 55) by Denis Duncan

*O Master, let us walk in your company, hearing your words, seeing your deeds, feeling your love.
And having walked with you along the road of life, may we walk with others in your name.
AMEN.*