

Thursday, April 28, 2016

There was an old man who carried a little can of oil with him everywhere he went. If he passed through a door that squeaked, he squirted a little oil on the hinges. If a gate was hard to open, he oiled the latch. He went through life lubricating all the hard places and making them easier for those who came after him. People teased and called him eccentric, weird, and all kinds of degrading names. But the old man continued on, carrying his can of oil, and oiling the hard places he found. He didn't wait until he found a creaky door or a rusty hinge and then go home to get his oil; he carried it with him.

There are many lives that creak and grind harshly day after day. They need lubricating with the oil of kindness, gentleness, or thoughtfulness. That can of oil illustrates the Christian faith. Each follower of Jesus should be a light in the darkness; a kind, healing influence in the midst of pain.

Many people are familiar with two verses from Proverbs chapter 3:

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

But most don't know that the two verses before that read:

Proverbs 3:3-4 Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.

As the old man kept his oil with him, so we need to keep our Christian kindness handy. It does no good if we leave it at home or in church. So, as you move about today, be sure to take your can of kindness along to pour on those creaking and squeaking people, hurting and dry from the trials of life.