

ONE OF 'THOSE DAYS'

A stressful day serves as a reminder of God's many blessings.

by Maureen A. Lange

Reprinted with permission from the October, 1999 issue of The Lutheran Witness

It was just one of "those days." Although it was my day off, I was wishing I was back at the office where the pace is usually less hectic.

Grumbling, I reviewed my day's schedule: do laundry, dog to vet's office, car in for an oil change, pick up cat food, doctor's appointment, post office, dry cleaners, pick out a birthday present for a good friend, shop for groceries, fix dinner and then finish off the day with Bible study tonight.

Add to this four phone calls that absolutely must be made today and you can imagine the fatigue I felt growing in my heart and feet.

By the time I reached number four on the list, I was growing more impatient and more grumpy. Feeling like an underpaid errand girl and thinking of all the things I'd rather be doing, I muttered, "Great! Some day of rest!"

Sliding back into the car, trying to fling a 40-pound bag of cat food across the seat, it suddenly struck me—what right did I have to complain? I was really complaining about my blessings!

I took out that list again. Each item represented a blessing! The time spent on my pets today is a small price for the love and pleasure they give me. And thank you, Lord, for the talented and compassionate veterinarian who keeps them healthy. I may have to sit in the car dealership for an hour, but I have a car that's reliable and takes me where I want to be. My doctor visit deals with a minor complaint. Please, Lord, be with all the people facing serious news from their physicians today. The birthday present quest may be a challenge, but the friendship is long-standing and cherished.

For a moment I pictured my life without my "obligations." No excited dog greeting me when I come home and no cat who snuggles with me when I can't sleep at night. I could be housebound due to illness, or simply because I have no car. I could be without my friend and much the poorer for it.

No need to fix dinner if there's no food in my cupboard. Looking at this, I can see that through all these errands, I'm really being reminded just how I am blessed.

Leaving the parking lot, I wonder how many other minutes and hours I've wasted grumbling about the very things that enrich my life and my spirit. How can I show my Lord my gratitude when I'm complaining about these small things? What an ungrateful child I am!

Forgive me, Father, for my pettiness, for my lack of sight. Help me to remember that my life is so blessed that I've begun to take it for granted. Empower me through Christ not to do that!

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