

Ella's New Life - - A Modern Day Parable

Inspired by John 12:20-33

Some nurses walked into the hospital room and stood in silence. Only the soft whoosh of the breathing machine and the faint beep of the heart monitor could be heard. Ella seemed to merely be sleeping as she lay still and silent connected to all the hardware. She had missed Christmas, New Years, and her birthday because of the stroke.

Some of her family members arrived for the Easter holiday and asked, "Sir, we like to see our Mother." The doctor had to tell them there was nothing more he could do. Their mother would not awaken, and she would never be able to breathe on her own again. Patrick went and told Aaron; then Aaron and Patrick went and told their father, Harold.

Harold answered then, "The hour has come for your mom to see the glory of God. My boys, it is difficult for us to let go, but unless we do, she will remain alive only by a machine; but if she dies she will breathe with the angels in Heaven. We who love your mother will lose her, and when she leaves behind her life in this world, our love will be preserved for eternal life. We are loved by a mighty God, and He has prepared a place for Ella. He has also promised to remain with us. Our Heavenly Father will honor that."

The family entered Ella's hospital room. It was filled with quiet tension. Machines beeped and whooshed, sadness welled up in hearts, tears streamed down cheeks, light pierced the window and rested on Ella's peaceful face. Aaron found words to express the emotional battle inside of him. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I pray, 'Lord, take her at this hour'? I want more than one hour. How do we decide? She can't live her purpose as wife and mother in this state. But, what about my own purpose as a loving, caring son?"

Then a song came to one nurse's mind and she began to sing with a voice from Heaven, "I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have called you and you are mine." Patrick turned and said, "You are an angel." The nurse answered and said, "That song just came to me. I didn't sing it for my sake, but for yours. It's so hard to wrap your heart around a moment like this. Now is the time for your mom to leave this world; soon all her pain will be driven out. One day when you, too, are lifted from the earth, God will draw you to Himself, and Ella will be there waiting for you."