Friday, April 10

Let Yourself Be Interrupted   **Pastor Hank French**

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me (Matthew 25:35-36).

We are, by and large, busy people, always in a rush, trying to accomplish this, that or the next thing. Our goals are out there ahead of us, pulling us forward, demanding our complete attention. We make plans and then heaven help whatever or whoever gets in the way of those plans. This is true in most of the arenas of life.

Sometimes we are so focused on the future that we miss what's going on all around us. We don't take time to smell the roses, to feel the sun, to hear a dog bark, to "rejoice with those who rejoice, [and] weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). As the late John Lennon famously quipped: "Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans."

In the movie *The Four Feathers*, a young, white, English Christian, fighting in a brutal war in Africa, finds himself getting into dangerous trouble over and over again. He is inexperienced and not at all wise in the ways of sub-Saharan Africa. Each time he gets in a jam he is helped and guided by a black, African Muslim. The African has his own agenda, but he allows it to be interrupted for the sake of the endangered Englishman.

Toward the end of the movie, the Englishman asks the African why he, black and Muslim, has risked himself over and over to help him, white and Christian. The African replied: "Because God put you in my way."

What a beautiful way to think about the people whose needs would interrupt us if only we would allow them to: God put you in my way. Perhaps, if we let ourselves be interrupted by those folks that God puts in our way, life would not happen without us.

Prayer: God, go ahead and put people in my way today, only give me the grace to see them for what they are—opportunities for love. Amen.