

God Never Blinks - Regina Brett

Lesson 3 LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO WASTE ON HATING ANYONE

This is the third in a series drawing on the writing of Regina Brett whose popular book GOD NEVER BLINKS is available at local libraries and retail outlets.

NOTES only with quote

Regina's friend Jane

Kids with their dad
get sober, never stay sober
she raised the kids, he raised the bottle
for 20 years she stayed
guilty of neglect
losing their home
divorce, 17, 15, 13

years went by

dad called the kids every few years
faded completely, four years, with no call
the phone ring one spring
locate the next of kin
dad has terminal cancer
all the years of pain and anger vanished

She didn't go into the room

sitting outside (common pose?) – thought through consequences

I am going to pay for everything

GOOD SAM

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 1Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Get dad into hospice

father and children re-united
death - he was free – even from alcoholism

SONG

**Let the seed of freedom awake and flourish,
let the deep roots nourish, let the tall stalks rise.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, from out of the skies.**

Question to Jane, why

resentments faded

told him they loved him – and discovered they really did

When he died, they all found a new peace - POST-RESURRECTION JESUS

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

how do you get to that place of forgiveness' and love
pure grace – hard work – LUKE 11

So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

BIG BOOK of AA

a life which includes deep resentment leads only to futility and unhappiness - resentment shuts us off from the sunlight of the spirit

Article from a magazine written by a minister

"If you have a resentment you want to be free of, if you pray for the person you resent, you will be free. If you will ask in prayer that everything you want for yourself to be given to them, you will be free. Ask for their health, their prosperity, their happiness, then you will be free. Even when you don't really want it for them, and your prayers are only words, and you don't mean, go ahead and do it anyway. Do it every day for two weeks, and you will find you have come to mean it and to want it for them, and you will realize that when you feel bitterness and resentment and hatred, you now feel compassionate, understanding and love.

results are amazing

pray for the willingness to pray for the person
it always comes

you want to be free of anger, hate, resentments, **you have to set others free first** (feels backwards)