

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Colossians 3: 9-14

Like Cornstarch

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14

I received a Chinese wok and cookbook for Christmas one year. I couldn't wait to put them to work! At the time, I was working in a town that offered a variety of evening school classes. Fortunately, Chinese cooking was one of them. I eagerly signed up.

Chinese stir-fry, I learned, is somewhat like cooking stew. A smooth light gravy-like sauce binds the meat and vegetables together. The binder is often cornstarch dissolved in water.

As human beings, we're all different. Our problems, passions, and talents vary one from another. What can bring us together? What can save us from our bent to self-centeredness? You know—that cornstarch of love! Be kind when anger comes so easily. Think of others first. Put yourself in someone else's shoes for a change. Forgive and even forget. Love is the great binder God has given to us.

**PRAYER:** Thank you, God, for your amazing love. Amen.

John A. Fischer—Lacey, Washington

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

2 Kings 4:1-7

Humble Offering; Miraculous Provision

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** He said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not just a few." 2 Kings 4:3

As a freelance writer, my income is not always steady. When finances tighten, it can be embarrassing to admit my inability to afford certain basic needs. The last thing I want to do is make my lack of means known, but that is exactly what Elisha instructed the widow struggling with debt to do in 2 Kings 4. By humbling herself, asking her neighbors for empty vessels, and offering God the only resource she had—a small jar of oil—she opened herself and her community to witness God's hand at work. God then rewarded her faith and effort by miraculously providing exactly what she needed.

The Almighty encourages us to lay our limited resources and feeble efforts at God's feet. Trusting God with our energy and possessions is one way we can exercise our faith. What a comfort and blessing to know that regardless of what we offer—whether it's little or much—it becomes miraculous in God's hands!

**PRAYER:** All-sufficient God, teach us to see our resources in terms of spiritual value and to trust you with all you have given us. Amen.

Megan L. Anderson—Kokomo, Indiana