



A PATCHWORK OF WISDOM

Characters: *Narrator*

Alma - a nursing home resident

Vivian - a woman in her sixties

Jennifer - a young mother

Hazel - a woman in mid-life

Props: *Wheelchair*

Card table

4 chairs

An unfinished quilt

4 sewing bags (each containing quilting supplies; Jennifer's bag must be bulging with other misc. items including a pair of training pants and scissors)

Staging: *Alma (in a wheelchair) and Vivian are on stage at the opening of the sketch. They are setting up the quilt. Jennifer and Hazel enter the stage when their dialogue begins. When each character has completed her dialogue, she should be seated and begin working on the quilt with imaginary stitches. Narrator speaks from stage left.*

Alma: Vivian, I'm so glad you came to pick me up for this project today. It's good to get away from the nursing home and see different faces for a change.

Vivian: I'm glad you could come, Alma. Your hands will help complete the quilt more *quickly*.

Alma: *Quickly*...It seems that nothing in my life goes quickly anymore. Some days time seems to actually stand still.

Vivian: Now that we have this anniversary quilt to work on, I *hope* you'll be able to join us often for our work days.

Alma: *Hope*...That's a word I seldom use anymore. Right now the only *hope* I have is for time to pass so I can see Jesus in heaven.

Vivian: Well, Alma, we need your help on this quilt. Don't be in a hurry to leave us.

Alma: Hmmm...This quilting time would give me something to look forward to each week. I hope I'll live to see it completed and presented.

Narrator: *Hope.* A quilt was often made as a wedding gift. Scraps of fabric were stitched with loving wishes of hope for the new couple.

God's Word says:

But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. Jeremiah 17:7

...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27b

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.
Hebrews 6:19a

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:5

Jennifer: *(dashing in, frazzled, with sewing bag bulging)* Gosh, I'm sorry I'm late. I never have enough *time*. Just as I walked out the door, Seth wet his pants, and then Sarah slammed her finger in the car door. By the time I changed him and iced her, I was at least 20 minutes behind. Some days I wish I had 36 hours instead of 24!

Vivian: Well, Jennifer, we're glad you took *time* for this project. We can use your help.

Jennifer: By being a part of this anniversary memento, I feel that at least some of my time is being spent on a lasting project.

Vivian: Actually, Jennifer, the time you are spending on your children right now is far more lasting than this quilt will be.

Jennifer: Yes...I sometimes lose sight of that aspect of my time. Now where are my scissors? Oh, no, here are Seth's extra training pants. I hope he doesn't have another accident! His timing is so awkward!

Narrator: *Time...*Making a quilt is very time consuming. Each piece must be cut and stitched with careful attention to size and shape. The quilting stitches take time as well. Just like each attentive moment a child needs.

God's Word says:

My times are in your hands... Psalm 31:15a

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb...your works are wonderful. Psalm 139:13, 14b

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

- Hazel:** Oh, Vivian, I almost forgot this quilting day. My activities have *changed* so much lately, I'm having difficulty keeping track of my days.
- Vivian:** We're happy that you remembered. What *changes* are you referring to, Hazel?
- Hazel:** Well, both our children are in college now and Harry's schedule has changed so that he is out of town a lot or working in the evenings.
- Vivian:** That must give you some lonely hours, Hazel.
- Hazel:** Yes, I'm not sure what *changes* I should be making. Should I go back to work? Should we sell our large home and get something smaller?
- Vivian:** Major life *changes* are difficult to make. Our inclination is to cling to the familiar.
- Hazel:** *The familiar...*this quilt reminds me...when I was a child our family moved several times. One summer my mother made a picnic quilt from the unused curtain and bedspread fabrics of our previous homes. I loved that old picnic quilt. It gave me a bit of each former home to take with me on our next move.
- Vivian:** That's a great idea, Hazel. If you do decide to sell your home, perhaps you could make a quilt incorporating the various fabrics from this house to take with you as you make that big *change*.
- Narrator:** *Change...*Many times a quilt is pieced of fabric scraps from dresses, shirts and other clothing of the family members. It's no wonder that such a family quilt could become a comforting security blanket for children as they pass through the stresses and *changes* of life.

God's Word says:

I the Lord do not change. Malachi 3:6

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

- Jennifer:** You know, quilts have so many practical qualities. They afforded the quilters some vital *fellowship*. Listen to how each of us has been encouraged by being

able to express our needs and frustrations to one another today.

Alma: Yes, and the *warmth* I feel in this group will cover me and surround me just like a quilt, through some of the bleak days at the nursing home.

Hazel: I appreciate the *cushion* of love I feel with all of you. Just as one might wrap a precious heirloom in a soft quilt to protect it during moving, I know that as I step out into these new changes in my life I'll have the cushion of your concern to rely on.

Vivian: Isn't it interesting that God called the Holy Spirit, the Comforter? With Him we have *fellowship* with the Father, the *warmth* and *cushion* of Jesus' love, and therefore the strength to go on in life, no matter the amount of *time* we have or the *changes* we encounter.

Narrator: Imagine a quilt of exquisite design, vibrant color, velvety softness, and infolding warmth. Such is the beauty and the comfort of our God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God's Word says:

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. John 14:16

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Therefore encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:18

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

All Scripture is from NIV.

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