

Love's Long Journey - #3 of the Love Comes Softly Series

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7 NIV

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 NIV

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 NIV

When Willie and Missie headed west to find their dream ranch, they weren't looking for something that was already built, but rather they found a place that had the potential of becoming what they wanted it to be. When God chose us as His children, it wasn't because of the good things in us, but rather because He could see into our hearts and knew what we could become.

What does your heart look like inside? Are there things that need changing?

Missie and Willie established their home on their love for God and love for each other. As Willie chose the people who would work for him, he picked a team that would be loyal and accept direction. Willie wanted a better house for Missie, but both of them trusted that it would come with time and were content to work towards that goal.

Do you have a goal that you are working towards?

When Missie's closest neighbor, a Native American woman, came to visit, Missie felt uneasy because of stories that she had heard about Indians. When Missie and Miriam got to know each other they became good friends. When it was time for Missie's baby to be born she was thankful for Miriam's experience.

Have you ever had a wrong first impression of someone? Do prejudices keep you from getting to know someone better?

Missie came from a home where prayer was part of everyday life. Willie and Missie made a decision to make God the center of their home also. Although the ranch hands weren't familiar with the prayers and Bible reading, each of them was changed by the love of God through the kindness and goodness of Willie and Missie.

Do you think that people see kindness and goodness in you?

When one of the ranch hands had too much to drink in town, he revealed information about Willie and Missie's finances to outlaws that put the family and their workers in jeopardy.

Why do you think that people drink too much? Could it be an escape from real life? Does it really solve problems or create bigger ones?

Willie and Missie's move to the west changed many things in their lives. God provided for them in interesting and colorful ways. When the outlaws came to rob them, it was Missie who rescued their savings and their lives. God can use each of us for good in the lives of others if we let Him. We need only let Him know that we are willing to be part of His plan.

Dear Lord, we can't see into the future, but You can. Lead us and guide us along the path that You would have us take. Show us how to trust in You. Help us to be people who can be trusted by others. Thank You for the Your grace and mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen.