

August 23, 2020

Great Faith

Matthew 15:21-28

On August 4, two large explosions rocked the city of Beirut, Lebanon. A white mushroom cloud filled the sky over the city's waterfront. As the cloud dissipated, devastation settled on the city. *New York Times* correspondent Vivian Yee was in her apartment in Beirut when the explosion happened. "When the world stopped cracking open, I couldn't see at first because of the blood running down my face. After blinking the blood from my eyes, I tried to take in the sight of my apartment turned into a demolition site. My yellow front door had been hurled on top of my dining table."¹

Yee was injured, and she knew it. She needed to find a hospital. She stumbled out of her apartment and into the street. Over the course of the next few hours, she relied on strangers to help her find her way to a hospital. These strangers didn't look like Yee, didn't speak the same language, didn't come from the same cultural background. She was a stranger to them. "The Lebanese who would help me in the hours to come had the heartbreaking steadiness that comes from having lived through countless previous disasters. Nearly all of them were strangers, yet they treated me like a friend."²

Yee put her faith in strangers. She needed their help, and they helped her. The student book author writes, "Trust God when it is hard to trust. Remember that God cares enough to stop and commune with you. The Lord will speak to your deepest need. Our faith in God assures us that, in spite of how things might appear, our future is always hopeful when we stand on heaven's eternal promises."³ It's not easy to rely on faith. Not knowing what will happen when you ask for help is a scary thing, but our God is reliable and true. "While God is no respecter of persons, God is a respecter of faith."⁴

Yee eventually made it to a hospital where she received staples to close her wounds. Her journey through Beirut that day took her on the back of a stranger's motorcycle to a demolished hospital not accepting patients and to the apartment of an acquaintance. It must have been difficult to hold on to the faith that she would be all right, that she would find her way to a doctor, but she persevered. She placed her life in the hands of strangers, and those strangers made sure she found healing.

1. Can you think of a time when strangers treated you like a friend?
2. When have you offered help to someone who is culturally different from you?
3. What are ways you can help others when a disaster strikes?

Rachel Mullen is the Features and Acquisitions Editor for *Christian Living in the Mature Years Magazine*.

¹From <https://tinyurl.com/y68sm3yc>.

²From <https://tinyurl.com/y68sm3yc>.

³From *Adult Bible Studies*, Summer 2020, by Robert Gardner (Cokesbury, 2020); page 127.

⁴From *Adult Bible Studies*; page 127.