

## **Seeds of Hope, Stories for Lent #23 - *A Lesson on Doing Good***

There is a wonderful story about a great storm that passed through a small southern coastal town. After the storm had subsided, an old man from the town walked to the beach to inspect the damage.

As he approached the water's edge, he could see thousands of starfish that the raging waves and winds had washed ashore. Here on the beach, the starfish would surely bake in the hot southern sun and die by the afternoon. The man shook his head sadly at the fate of the starfish.

Down at the other end of the beach however, there was a little boy who was slowly and methodically bending over and tossing the starfish back into the sea, one by one.

The old man watched him for some time knowing that the child could never pick up all those starfish before the sun would claim them forever.

Finally, unable to watch the futile efforts of the child any longer, the old man approached the boy and said to him, "Son, you're wasting your time. You cannot possibly rescue all of these starfish. What difference is it to throw a few back into the sea?"

The little boy looked at the starfish that he held in his hand and hardly paying attention to the old man, he proudly tossed it back into the ocean.

The child then looked the old man in the eyes and remarked, "It sure made a difference to that one."

So stunned by this little boy's wisdom, the old man did something remarkable. He joined the child in rescuing the starfish by throwing them back in to the sea...one by one.

This is a perfect example of what a difference we can make in life by simply trying to do good little by little and loving people...one...by...one...by...one...

Amen? Amen!

---

***For further reflection...***

- 1. When have you decided not to even try to change something because you felt there was no way you could make a difference?***
- 2. Think of one thing you can do this very moment to make someone smile. Then do it.***

*"But you, brothers and sisters, be not remiss in doing good work."* 2 Thessalonians 3:13