

Seeds of Hope, Stories for Lent #35 - *Make Suffering a Blessing in Disguise*

Today's story seed is about the best seller entitled "Tuesdays with Morrie,"

This book, which has been turned into a stage play and a movie, has captured the minds and hearts of many people. It is an account written by award-winning sports writer, Mitch Albom who graduated from Brandeis University decades earlier and been a student of sociologist Morrie Schwartz.

In his book, Mitch Albom recounts how, as the old man was dying, Mitch renewed his warm relationship with his revered teacher and mentor. This book is the vivid memory of the teacher's battle with Lou Gehrig's disease [ALS].

The dying man, largely because of his life-affirming attitude toward his death-dealing illness, became somewhat of a guru, and was the subject of three Ted Koppel interviews on *Nightline*.

That was how Mitch first learned of Morrie's condition. Mitch Albom well fulfilled the age-old obligation to visit the sick. He called his weekly visits to his teacher his, "last class" and the book he wrote "a term paper." The subject: *The Meaning of Life*.

As you read the book, you quickly realize that life, itself, is a class and there is so much to learn every single day. If only we can adopt the great attitude of Morrie Schwartz which is to take everything that comes to us as an opportunity of learning and growing. Then, indeed, we will be a great example for many others.

For any of you who may be suffering, seize the moment as a blessing in disguise. Learn all you can and share all you can. In this way, you will find the meaning of life in the lesson of your life.

After all, you never know when Graduation Day may come...

Amen? Amen!

For Further Reflection...

Who do you consider to be a teacher of yours in this "classroom of life"? Why?

Can you recall a time when a past suffering actually did turn into a blessing? Describe it.

"Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23: 4