

MEND THE TEAR

A man once owned a travel bag that he took with him wherever he went. One day he noticed a tear along the seam of his bag. He quickly taped it up, but before long the tear grew bigger. It seemed that nothing would stop the tear from growing larger or the material from fraying. It was frustrating because on his long journeys, the man couldn't afford to keep losing things through that tear.

One day the man showed up at his destination ready to meet with someone important, but his tie had fallen out of his bag, and he was forced to buy another one. When one couldn't be found, he had to retrace his steps, and finally, he found it lying on the road. But it was now dirty and dusty and needed to be washed.

The man continued to lose valuable things on his travels, until one day he saw a sewing machine he kept at home. He could use it to repair the tear. He thought about doing just that, but then laziness and procrastination kept him from fixing this bag that was so important to his life.

On the next trip he took, the bag tear grew bigger and bigger till out fell his shoe. Showing up for his appointment in his ragged travel shoes had made the client reject his offer, and he returned home in disgrace. The next trip he took, out fell his watch and his wallet. He was late for his appointment and lost a good sum of money.

At home once more, dejected and confused, he looked at his bag and wondered what to do. Then the thought came to mind, *Use the sewing machine!*

"Oh yes!" he shouted, and headed to the table. *But, oh, I'm tired and it could wait till tomorrow,* he thought, and put it off again.



The next time a trip was due, he grabbed his bag once more. This time, however, it ripped before he was out the door and dumped out everything he had inside. He sat down in despair and began to moan. "What use is this bag? How am I to continue?"

Just then a whisper once more entered his head:

*Use the sewing machine!
Get this thought through your head!
You can't continue with a tear in your life,
And patching it on your own just brings you more strife.
So use the sewing machine and sew up that tear
While it is small and easy to repair.
Each day it will grow and your chances it'll blow,
So fix it while you can, and be a smart man.*

This time he put his laziness aside and watched with joy as the machine started to glide over the tear. With each stitch that was planted, the tear relinquished. Soon his bag was repaired, and he filled it carefully for his next appointment.

"Never again," said the man, "will I let such a thing ruin my life when I have a sewing machine to fix such a tear."

And off to a successful visit he ran, with tie, shoes, watch, and wallet safely in hand.

PONDER IT:

Throughout life there is a measure of wear and tear on your heart and mind and spirit—questions, fears, and worries. If you let the wearing on your emotions and thoughts continue without taking the time to mend them with God's Word—which repairs your faith, answers your questions, and calms your worries—you can find yourself unable to face the challenges of each day, and losing valuable time.

God's Word restores your spirit; it helps you to center your faith and trust in God once again so that your path can be clear and easy to follow.

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path"
(Psalm 119:105 NLT).

