

Grace & Peace

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

REYNOLDS PRICE: DOES GOD CARE?



Will Wilson, RP, 1997

Sunday we told the story of Reynolds Price, his cancer illness and his healing. My *Grace and Peace* of last year, February 1, 2011, contained his account of his vision of Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. His book, *A Whole New Life*, resulted in a large number of letters and calls from people who'd had similar experiences of the presence of a living God who mysteriously showed His care for them. One such response came from an 87 year old woman, also a writer. Here is her account:

...such inner events are much more common than people dare to admit. They carry their own authentication, I think, in the atmosphere of complete simplicity and great depth that surrounds them. Mine

came, like yours, at a time of medical stress, during some exhausting tests before an operation. I can't exactly say "it came" though; it was rather that I went out to meet it...This time I went out along the Galilee hills and came to a crowd gathered around a man, and I stood on the outskirts intending to listen. But he looked over the crowd at me and then said, "What do you want?" I said, "Could you send someone to come with me and help me stand up after the tests, because I can't manage alone?" He thought for a minute and then said, "How would it be if I came?"

Reynolds Price told his story as clearly and simply as he could. And the woman responded with her story, simple and deep, as she says.

Those stories about the healing, caring presence of Jesus make real what we mean when we say "the greater healing that only God can bring." And Reynolds Price telling his story, which then calls forth another story...it seems to me, when you get right down to it, that is Church.