

### **It's a Beautiful Day**

The day started out rotten. I overslept and was late for work. Everything that happened at the office contributed to my nervous frenzy. By the time I reached the bus stop for my homeward trip, my stomach was one big knot. As usual, the bus was late and jammed. I had to stand in the aisle. As the lurching vehicle tossed me in all directions, my gloom deepened.

Then I heard the deep voice of a passenger that just boarded, "Beautiful day, isn't it?!" Because of the crowd, I could not see the man, but I could hear him as he continued to comment on the spring scenery, calling attention to each approaching landmark. This church building, that park, this cemetery, that old firehouse. Soon all of the passengers were looking out the windows to see the things this self-appointed tour guide was pointing out. The man's cheer and enthusiasm was so contagious, I found myself smiling for the first time that day. We reached my stop. Maneuvering to the front of the bus, I got a look at him: a plump little man with a black beard, wearing dark glasses, and carrying a long, thin, white cane with a red tip. Yes, he was blind.

The day started out rotten. I am two weeks late in preparing a large writing assignment, I slept poorly the night before and had a hard time focusing on my work. I was 40 minutes late for a task I arranged for today, and had to walk the dog in a sticky humid morning. Aside from the writing assignment, the late task, and lesson review for today, I got nothing else done today. My stomach is churning and I had to focus on the challenging experience of changing 269 charts.

But it is a beautiful day! God is still in heaven and is still in charge and still loves us. Heaven is still there with a home waiting for us. Jesus is still at the right hand of God making intercession for us. I am here in a warm, dry place filled with folks sharing a profound love for each other. My wife has carried her illness with grace for the past three weeks without complaint. My uncle gave me advice that made me stronger and wiser. My Dad tells me he's proud of me. My fellow elders have been pulling in harness shoulder to shoulder with me. It all depends on what we choose to see.

The Gospel is still free to all. The hosts of heaven are still waiting for you to be saved. This congregation is holding out its arms to you. You know what? It's a beautiful day! It is a good day to give your life to the Lord. **Rev. 22:12-17**