

Before becoming related to Sister Lee's granddaughter, I knew Sister Lee only from afar. I did not know her intrinsically.

But because of my wife, and because of our two children, I've been able to get to know her a little bit better. For the past 10 years I've had the privilege of being under Sister Lee's care and of being able to observe her in all kinds of situations. I have seen her making small decisions; and I have seen her making major, life-changing decisions. I have seen her joyful, happy, and rejoicing in the Lord—which was most of the time; but I have also seen her troubled, disappointed, seeking the Lord desperately. I have seen her shepherding others, gently, lovingly; and I have seen her shepherd in a disciplining way. I have seen how she treated others; and I have seen how others treated her. I have seen how she received all kinds of visitors; and I saw how she was after the visitors left. I saw how she lived her routine from day to day; and I saw how she dealt with unforeseen, sometimes unwanted circumstances.

To summarize my observations: What a God-man! What a mature, dignified, gracious, noble human being! What a lover of the Lord Jesus! What a pattern!

I will illustrate some observations about Sister Lee with some examples, in 4 points.

**Point #1: She was very detailed and gracious in her care for others**

There are many stories of Sister Lee's care for Brother Lee's health, or for the health of other saints. For the most part, her advice in this department boiled down to a few simple principles, the main one I remember being: Don't eat too much! Practice to eat until you are 80% full.

But in the time that I knew Sister Lee, her care in the psychological and spiritual realms for others' well-being was more significant than her care in the physical realm. In numerous cases I saw how she took certain special measures so that others would be protected against rumors, embarrassment, blame, or misunderstanding. I saw how she visited with certain ones at the exact right time, when they were feeling lonely or unloved, with her life-infusing smile, with her loving concern, and always with a short, simple life-giving word.

How to have a good marriage? "You need to be transformed"

How to be transformed? "When you walk, walk and talk with the Lord; He will transform you"

How to be happy? "Sing to the Lord every day—it is better to sing than be sighing"

**Point #2: Sister Lee considered herself to be an unworthy slave**

Paul says that believers should rather be wronged than bring a complaint against another believer. But I saw how Sister Lee was far beyond this realm—the realm of those who would rather be wronged. She considered herself to be an unworthy slave. How can a slave be wronged? Because of this, Sister Lee transcended over every situation. When I thought Sister Lee should have an opinion, and when she probably really should have had an opinion, she simply said, "No opinion." Or, "Let the brothers decide, I have no opinion."

Even in the small things, she considered herself to be unworthy. Nobody expects a 90-something-year-old to get up on the counter to change a light bulb. But she wouldn't say anything because she didn't want to bother the brothers; she felt herself to be unworthy.

But surely she was worthy. When we were serving her, we felt we were serving the Lord. What kind of person is this? She considers herself an unworthy slave, yet when we do something for her it is the Lord who repays us? I and others can testify that the God of Sister Lee is filling our every need according to His riches, in glory, in Christ Jesus. [Phil 4:19]

**Point #3: Sister Lee was a grandmother, sharing her faith with us and with our children, and loving us in a practical, human way [2 Tim 1:5]**

On this point, please allow me to share something for the sake of my two children, Anastasia and Benjamin. They are 6 and 3, and in their short lives they have spent more time with Sister Lee than they have with me, their own father. For years they shared all of their meals with Sister Lee, indeed, all of their waking hours. Sister Lee had no teeth, and neither did they, so for years they ate literally the same food. Sister Lee would sit with them for hours at a time, talking to them, singing to them, playing with them, challenging them, teaching them to copy her.

With Anastasia, Sister Lee was still very mobile, so they would go on long walks together, playing, and picking flowers. They were best friends. One time, at Grace Gardens, if you would have gone out on the street around mid-day, you would have found Anastasia and Sister Lee laying down, flat on their backs, in the middle of the street, looking up at the sky, and laughing. We don't know how Anastasia convinced Sister Lee that this was a good idea. I am sure she has said it to others, but in all the years, I have only heard Sister Lee say, "I love you" to two people—to the Lord Jesus and to Anastasia. Every day when they met, they would have an affectionate kiss and tell each other, "I love you."

Benjamin connected with Sister Lee on a level that is hard to explain. She would sit with him for hours, day after day, and they would talk to each other through their eyes and by making various grunting noises and laughing at each other hilariously. Sister Lee said that Benjamin was actually talking to her! By the time he was only months old, she had taught him to Praise the Lord. She would sing, he would bounce in anticipation, and at the right time they would both throw up their arms and she would say, Praise the Lord! or Hallelujah! Then they would both throw back their heads and laugh and clap their hands together. We thought there might be

something wrong with Benjamin, because for his first 2 years of life, he was always smiling and almost never cried. My dad once observed how happy he always was and said, "Maybe he's already saved?"

In these and so many other ways, Sister Lee cared for us by caring for our children, infusing us and them with love and faith.

**Point #4, my last point: Sister Lee was a soldier, unentangled with the affairs of life that she would please the Lord who enlisted her [2 Tim 2:4]**

Many have shared on this point, so I'll skip to the end here.

The Lord is being merciful to us today, in allowing us to observe the pattern we have in Sister Lee, of one who was transcendent over all the affairs of life, of one who served the Lord as a soldier, who fought the good fight, finished her course, and kept the faith.

**JESUS IS GOD! HALLELUJAH!**