

Wisdom from Women Who Have Walked Before
by Fay Johnson

Scriptures	Ruth 1:20, Hebrews 11:11, Acts 9:36-41, Luke 1:46-47
Setting	The Fill My Cup Tea Room
Characters	Faith, Hope, Charity, Mara, and Martha the Server [Martha needs to move around working/cleaning etc.]
Faith	Hello ladies! I'm so glad everyone could come today.
Hope	Hi Faith. Hey Charity. Well look Mara's pulling into the parking lot. She can be so bitter.
Charity	Oh let's give her the benefit of the doubt Hope. Sure she gets on everyone's last nerve but you know what the Bible says about being slow to ...
Hope	Well a snail is slow but eventually he will get where he's going.
Charity	It's just that she is just like her name, Mara – bitterness.
Faith	It's just that she takes it to a whole new level.
Hope	I think we need to think fast or this could be another loooooong lunch.
Charity	[all three ladies watch Mara out a window that looks into the congregation; Martha is busy cleaning, serving etc.] It is rather amazing how someone can manage getting in as many tight spots, scrapes – oh my I guess that hurt.
Hope	Bless her heart, she does struggle...
Faith	Well maybe we need to be a little more like our names, Faith, Hope, Charity [Faith points to each of them as the ladies look at each other and laugh]
Charity	You are so right, let's see what we can do to be a blessing to Mara today.
Mara	Well I finally found the right place, I just drove around until I found the right one. I've had such a terrible morning; another argument with "the" mother-in-law, she just had to nag one more time about not being good enough – oh you don't need to know, then the children, got lost in traffic, traffic was backed up for miles, and then I got cut off...[need to speak with bitterness-no whining, Mara can rub her temples as she deposits her purse on]
Hope	How about we find a table since I guess we're all here?
Charity	This looks like a wonderful table. I just love this place.
Faith	I love everything about this little tea room. The Fill My Cup Tea Room. I think it is just splendid. I really looked forward to meeting everyone here.
Mara	I wonder what's the point? Get dressed up, shuttle the kids around. It's a lot of trouble. [remember no whining]
Faith	Don't you enjoy a break in routine Mara?

Mara	Well I guess, but by the time I get here I'm out of sorts, the children, the traffic... [still try not to whine]
Charity	Please excuse me for being blunt, but maybe you should have some charity, or unmerited forgiveness toward those drivers and your children or your mother-in-law and not bitterness.
Faith	Charity is right Mara. You know there is a story in the Old Testament of dear lady named Naomi. Naomi called herself Mara or bitterness because she said she went out full but came back empty because her husband and both sons died.
Hope	She still had a daughter-in-law named Ruth, who was said to have been better to her than seven sons. After Ruth and Boaz's child was born I can't even imagine how blessed Naomi must have felt.
Charity	I don't suppose she or anyone else ever called her bitterness again.
Mara	Humph, I've never thought about that before.
Faith	So we should strive to be better not bitter.
Mara	Are there other Bible stories that can help me?
Hope	Just like each of us, our names remind us, to have faith, hope, and charity.
Charity	Tabitha was raised from the dead because she made clothes for the poor.
Faith	Sarah is named in the great hall of faith in Hebrews 11 for her faith when Isaac was conceived.
Hope	Mary had hope when she said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." You know she was talking about her very own son.
Mara	I don't believe I've ever really thought about it like that before. I would like to ask each of you to forgive me and ask that you be patient with me while I learn not to be bitter.
Charity	You know what? My name is Charity; I am reminded every time I it that I need be more loving to others.
Faith	Me too; I am constantly reminded that I need faith.
Hope	Oh don't go leaving me out. Hope isn't an easy commodity either you know.
Mara	I'm relieved to know others struggle as well.
Martha	Would any of you ladies like dessert today? [Martha needs a HUGE name tag she also is busy doing things throughout the skit.]
Faith	None for me, I'm counting calories.
Hope	Me neither; I'm counting carbs.
Charity	I'm out too; points.
Mara	I'll have the lava cake with whipped cream, nuts, and a cherry on top; I'm counting my blessings.

the end.