

"One Size Fits All" Mrs.  
Jeanne Bireley

I don't know why, but as the old year ends and a new one begins with new opportunities to correct our mistakes and begin anew, I got to thinking about a time when I was a little kid and I was the only girl in a family of four. We were sort of what the poor folks called poor, so we didn't always have all the things we needed.

The boys could hand their clothes down, but mine usually had to come from a cousin. One spring there was no hand-me-down coat for me, nor the money to buy one. I was in desperate need of a coat, but my mom was a very resourceful person, and in desperation she found one in the mission box at church.

I can still see it now, it was pea green with little black flecks all over it. The problem was, it was too big and the sleeves hung way down over my hands. But I was so glad just to have a coat that I believed mom when she told me that oversize was all the style that year, so I wore it proudly. A year passed by quickly and I had finally grown into my coat.

This time I knew it was in style because it fit like all the other girl's coats. Another year passed by and this time the sleeves were so short they came up just below my elbow. But guess what - mom said that three quarter length sleeves were in perfect style, and I believed her.

There was a special program coming up in Church and all the other girls got new dresses,

except for me. Now I did have two white sheer dresses, but the problem was one was too short, and the one that fit had a hole in it.

Mom's solution was that she had heard that tunic dresses were all in style, and all I had to do was wear the short one over the one with the hole in it and it would be perfect. But I wasn't so sure about that, so the day of the program when we all got up on stage, and everybody else looked so pretty, I decided to keep my old misfit coat on over those two dresses and I embarrassed my mom to tears.

That was just three years out of my life, and what mom did was out of necessity and actually she did the best she could with what she had.

As we come to the end of another year, we have done the best we could with the opportunities God has given to us? If we have, it seems like something is wrong somewhere, because this has been a tumultuous year in many ways.

There is no time for God in this world of ours, and the only time we seem to remember to call on His name is when tragedy strikes.

We have lowered our moral standards so low we are almost animalistic in nature. Human life means nothing anymore. And even small children resort to taking life if they can't have it their way.

Our lives used to center in our churches, now they center everywhere else but church. We live like there is no tomorrow with the consequences of our

Actions, but my friends, that's not true. There is a pay day someday for all of us. God gives us leeway for a time, but even God has a limit.

My mom convinced me that coat was perfect for three years, and I accepted it, until she went a bit too far with the dresses - then I rebelled and embarrassed her. Just think, God hasn't just given us three years, he gives us year after year, after year, after, and usually when we come to this point, as the old year fades away, many people look back over their lives, regret their mistakes, and make resolutions to try to do better in the new year to come. Well, here we are again!

Mom tried to cover up the hole in one dress by covering it up with another one, but it didn't quite work, because I knew it - wasn't there! - No - natter now much - we try as a people to cover up our sinful nature and pretend we have no problems, God isn't fooled. He knows they are there, and there will be a pay day someday, that's for sure.

As we come to the close of another year, God is giving us yet another chance, a brand new year to try to get it right. Time is slipping away quickly my friends, and the day of our Lord's return is getting closer every day. Are you ready? If not, maybe it's time to get serious about your commitment. My little pea green coat with the black flecks didn't always fit, but with God, when we put on his cloak of salvation, one size truly does fit all. And the best part is, it just doesn't cover up the sins of the past, it blots them out forever. Have a blessed New Year.