

## Room Ransacked

Contributed by Ronnie Davis  
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Before you call I will answer and while you yet think to speak, I will hear Isaiah 65:24 RIV.

On a mere glance by someone only passing the room, lit only by the early morning's sunlight, the intruder's passing was barely noticeable to even the critical, wary eye. Peering in from the passageway the damage was barely seen for the parts of the room that had endured the rummaging of the intruder were hidden by the partly open door. However, after entering the room the crunch of glass-like fragments underfoot was an immediate alert that something was not right. A glance to the left brought stark evidence that someone had forcefully entered the room through a window to the far left of the room, stepping unto the nightstand beside the bed and then down to the floor. Broken shards of glass littered the area where the entry had been made and the curtains now blew languidly in the wind whose passage into the room was now unhindered.

On the bed against whose side the night stand stood, was strewn some of the once well folded contents of the different drawers of the wardrobe standing directly across from the bed against the opposite wall. Also, one could see items from the night stand's drawers which indicated that a quick perusal of the contents had been made to see what valuables could have been found. Papers and files were scattered between the bed and the study desk which stood next to the wardrobe. Some of the papers were those that she had worked on the night before at the desk. The book shelf above the desk was undisturbed; but the ornate crystal desk lamp that once added some elegance to that little area was now merely crystal fragments scattered about the area around the desk and to the front of the door. It once was a beautiful family heirloom that had lit her way through many nights, even while she toiled long and hard to finish her project write-up and a funding proposal for the investors that would fund her research project.

On returning from her early morning run that day during a stop in the kitchen for a cup of tea, she had heard the sharp sound of the crash that indicated the shattering of the lamp in her room. Upon entering the passageway, having silently crossed the living room, she came face to face with the masked intruder who was exiting her bedroom door near the other end of the passageway. Momentary shock caused them both to stand immobile for what seemed to be countless moments even though the period lasted only about ten seconds. Then with apparent menace the intruder started steadily forward and as fear reached out and gripped her she stepped back; back into the arms of her friend who had approached quietly from the rear having initially returned on second thought to accept her offer of a cup of tea after their morning run. Startled that she was not alone, the intruder hastily escaped back the way he had entered. He took with him the bag containing her recently concluded proposal, some other items of value and a small amount of cash.

As she now stood in her room, seeing the damage and summing up her loss, shock at the intrusion that had taken place caused the other feelings, even in their intensity, to have little effect. A sense of weakness saturated her being as her system summed up the last few minute's events in the comforting presence of her friend; and as she contemplated what would be the end of this intrusion, questions started to bombard in her mind.

?Why did this have to happen to me? What do I do next? What shall I do about the research project, the board meets in three hours? Will the project sink? Will the intruder be found? What shall I do??

Fear tried to take a hold of her again as she realized she could also have been harmed when he had entered. However, in that instant, as time ticked into moments and those moments became scenes embedded unto the picture frames of her recently fear filled mind, a sense of relief pervaded her as she realized the timeliness of the coming of her friend.