In "A River Runs Through It," Norman Maclean and his father try to help his brother, Paul:

"'Help,' he said, is giving part of yourself to somebody who comes to accept it willingly and needs it badly.

So it is ... that we can seldom help anybody. Either we don't know what part to give or maybe we don't like to give any part of ourselves. Then, more often than not, the part that is needed is not wanted. And even more often, we do not have the part that is needed. It is like the auto-supply shop over town where they always say, 'Sorry, we are just out of that part."

"We are willing to help, Lord, but what if anything is needed?"

... "It is those we live with and love and should know who elude us."