

# *Heart to Heart*

Devotional Thoughts for Women

April 2016

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## **Hide & Seek**

It's the little things in life that make us happy, especially when you're a little kid. For my youngest child, one of the highlights of his week was our trip to the grocery store. It was at the end of each of those trips that he received a big lollipop attached to a balloon from the cashier. It always made his day, but on one occasion, it also got him into a lot of trouble.

On this particular grocery day, we were driving home from the store when Matthew asked me if he could start eating his lollipop. I told him it was too close to lunchtime and that he needed to wait and eat it after lunch. He remained quiet in the back seat clutching his lollipop in one hand and his balloon in the other and I thought nothing more about it. Not so with him.

We arrived home and, of course, I became preoccupied with putting groceries away quickly so I could start fixing lunch while my children scattered to the four winds doing the things little kids do. I didn't notice right away that Matthew was missing.

I put lunch on the table and called to the kids. My oldest two came racing to the table and sat down and then we waited...and wondered. Where was Matthew? I glanced into the hall to see if the bathroom door was shut. Nope. I went into his room to see if he was engrossed with playing with his toys. No sign of him. I started calling his name as I walked into every room in the house. He was nowhere to be found. Then panic started to grip my heart. What if he went outside and someone took him? I raced outside, calling his name. No answer. Where could he be? I tried to calm down and think logically. His brother and sister had joined in the hunt and kept calling to him. I went back into his room and checked behind the rocking chair and under the bed. In desperation, I turned around not knowing what to do next when my eyes fell on his closet door. It was an accordion-style door and it was slightly ajar. I grabbed the handle and jerked it open and there sat Matthew looking up at me with huge eyes, a sticky mouth, and the remains of an unwrapped lollipop in his hand.

This scenario reminds me very much of one that is found in the very first chapters of the Bible. When Adam and Eve sinned, they knew immediately that they were in serious trouble. They realized their relationship with the Lord had been altered and would never be the same again. They were fully aware that they had violated the command of God and He was going to be justifiably angry at their disobedience with unpleasant consequences sure to follow. What could they do? They tried to hide from God, hoping He would not find them, hoping to delay the inevitable. As God walked through the garden, He called out to them, *“Where are you?”* (Genesis 3:9) Have you ever wondered why God called out to them? God knew exactly where they were. He wanted Adam and Eve to realize where they were – in sin and separated from God.

Matthew knew he was disobeying me by eating his lollipop so he hid, like Adam and Eve, hoping to avoid the consequences of his disobedience. The prophet Jonah tried something similar when he deliberately went in the opposite direction that God told him to go thinking that the other side of the world would be a good hiding place from God. Not so. Every one of us tries to “hide” from God at some point in our lives when we have allowed sin to rule in our hearts, but God always knows where we are, whether it's in a garden, on a ship, under the sea, or in a closet. He doesn't need to seek us, He's waiting for us to seek Him. Jeremiah 29:13-14 says, *“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord.”*

I must confess, when I discovered Matthew hiding from me in his closet, I was not full of mercy and grace at the time. I was grieved that my child had disobeyed me and especially upset that he had heard me calling and refused to answer and come to me. Why would he do that to me? But if I am honest with myself, I must ask, Do I ever do that to my Father?

Was the heart of God grieved over the disobedience of His children in the garden of Eden? How do you think He feels today when we attempt to hide in our sin and ignore Him as He calls us? If we are living in disobedience to God, we need to “come out of hiding” and seek the Lord. When we sincerely seek Him with all of our heart, we will find a merciful and loving God who wants to welcome us back to a right relationship with Him. We must seek Him with a penitent and contrite heart, asking for the forgiveness He is so ready to bestow.

~Heather Pryor

**Ladies Bible Class – April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** We are continuing a study on prayer titled “Unto Thee, O Lord.” (Yellow folders) Read and do the April assignments before class. Please bring your Bible and a breakfast item to share.

**Ladies Bible Class #2** – We have received a gracious invitation to attend the ladies class at Pinellas Park church of Christ. Class meets each Friday at 1:00 p.m. For more information, call 727-544-8920 or 727-544-6918.

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## **Search the Scriptures**

### **“Hiding from God”**

Fill in the blanks for the following verses that talk about trying to hide from God. (Quotations are taken from the NKJV.)

1. “And there is no \_\_\_\_\_ hidden from His \_\_\_\_\_, but all things are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Him to whom we must give an \_\_\_\_\_.” (Hebrews 4:13)
2. “Can anyone \_\_\_\_\_ himself in \_\_\_\_\_ places, so I shall not \_\_\_\_\_ him? says the Lord.” (Jeremiah 23:24)
3. “There is no \_\_\_\_\_ nor shadow of \_\_\_\_\_ where the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.” (Job 34:22)
4. “For my \_\_\_\_\_ are on all their \_\_\_\_\_; they are not \_\_\_\_\_ from My \_\_\_\_\_, nor is their \_\_\_\_\_ hidden from My \_\_\_\_\_.” (Jeremiah 16:17)

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## **Answers to Last Month's Quiz**

### **“Servants”**

In what ways did each woman serve?

1. Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2) Phoebe was a helper of many in the church and to the apostle Paul as well.
2. Ruth (Ruth 2) Ruth gleaned in the fields to provide food for her mother-in-law Naomi.
3. The Shunammite woman (II Kings 4:8-10) The Shunammite woman provided God's prophet Elisha with a furnished room to rest and work in.
4. Joanna and Susanna (Luke 8:3) Joanna and Susanna provided for Jesus and his disciples out of their own resources.

# RECIPE CORNER

*"She...provides food for her household." ~Prov. 31:15*

## STRAWBERRY ROLLS WITH VANILLA GLAZE

### **Filling:**

1 1/2 cups fresh strawberries, chopped into tiny pieces  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 1/2 T. cornstarch

### **Dough:**

2 3/4 cup all-purpose flour, divided	1/2 cup water
3 T. sugar	1/4 cup milk
1/2 tsp. salt	3 T. butter
2 1/4 tsp. yeast (one packet)	1 large egg, room temperature

### **Glaze:**

1 cup confectioner's sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
2 T. milk or heavy cream

**For filling:** Place chopped strawberries in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook for 6-8 minutes, stirring constantly, or until the strawberries are very soft and juicy. Add in the sugar and cornstarch and continue to cook and stir for another 1-2 minutes until thickened. Transfer filling to a small bowl and let it cool completely before use.

**For dough:** In a large bowl combine 2 1/4 cups of the flour, the sugar, salt and yeast; mix well and set aside. In a small saucepan over medium heat, warm the water, milk and butter until the butter is melted and the mixture is hot to the touch but not scalding. Stir the liquid mixture into the flour mixture. Add in the egg, then add in at least 1/3 of additional flour. You may need to add up to 1/2 cup of additional flour until it gently pulls away from the side of the bowl and is slightly elastic. Transfer the dough to a lightly floured surface and knead for 3 minutes. Lightly spray a clean bowl with cooking spray and set the dough inside, covered with plastic wrap, to rest for 20 minutes. Roll the dough into a 14x8" rectangle. Spread strawberry filling over dough leaving a 1" border around the edges. Roll dough up tightly letting it rest on the seam. Cut the roll into 10-11 pieces then arrange them in a lightly greased 9" round or square baking dish. Loosely cover and let them rise in a warm place for about 1 1/2 hours. Bake at 375 degrees for 25-30 minutes. You may need to cover the rolls with foil halfway through baking to avoid overbrowning.

**For glaze:** Combine confectioner's sugar, vanilla and cream. Whisk until smooth. Drizzle over cooled rolls.