

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

December 2015

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Luke's Lemonade

It was a beautiful September morning. It was one of those perfect Saturdays to go peruse some yard sales. As we drove back into a nice little subdivision, we turned a corner and slowly drove onto a street that had two yard sales, each across the street from the other. The one on the right side of the road was drawing a lot of attention mainly due to the fact that the homeowner also happened to be a caterer of smoked barbecue. He had his smoker fired up and the tantalizing smell of smoked pork filled the air. As tempting as the allure of a smoked pork sandwich was, we pulled over to the left side of the road and got out to explore the other yard sale first.

As I walked up the driveway, I immediately saw a cute little boy sitting at a round table. He looked to be about 4 or 5 years old. He appeared tiny as he sat in a large lawn chair, his legs swinging away vigorously as they were too short to reach the ground. On the table he had a large glass dispenser full of lemonade complete with lemon slices floating on top of the pale yellow liquid. He had two little stacks of cups sitting upside down on the table next to the lemonade and a sign propped up on the table which read, "Luke's Lemonade - 25 cents". The morning was warm and the thought of a cool glass of lemonade was welcome, 25 cents or not. The little boy watched us intently as we approached with a big smile of anticipation on his face, hoping we would be lured to his table and a purchase of his delightful drink. Of course, I had to go straight to the lemonade stand. I walked up to the little boy and asked him if he was Luke. He eagerly nodded and asked me if I would like to buy some of his lemonade. I asked him if it was good lemonade and he said it was very good. "In that case," I told him, "I must have some!" I watched as he carefully selected a cup and held it under the spout with one hand then turned the spigot with his other hand. The lemonade dispensed quite slowly. When the cup was about half full, Luke turned off the spigot and held the cup up toward me with a smile. "Is this enough?" he asked hopefully. I smiled at him and told

him it was just right. I noticed that he was wearing a little fanny pack around his waist, so I asked him if I was to give the money to him and he smilingly nodded. I handed him the quarter and watched him unzip the fanny pack to put it in with the others. But then little Luke did something totally unexpected. He looked up at me, still smiling, and said, "I want to give something back to you!" and he handed me two quarters. I was surprised and thought that this poor kid wouldn't make much of a profit off of his lemonade if he paid all of his customers back twice what they paid him! I handed him the quarters back and told him that he could keep both of them. He seemed surprised, but then said, "Okay, thanks! Enjoy your lemonade!" And oh, how I did enjoy it...in more ways than one.

I know Luke was young enough that he probably didn't understand much about money, but he could've understood enough to know he was supposed to keep the money that was paid to him by his customers. But clearly for this little boy, the lemonade stand wasn't about the money – you could see in his bright brown eyes, his eager smile and his sweet disposition that he was thoroughly enjoying the act of giving to others. He was just excited for people to have his lemonade and was so willing to serve them. His joy of giving was also evident in his desire to give me two quarters back after I paid him one. He wanted to be able to give me something more even after he gave me some of his delicious lemonade.

Luke didn't realize it, but he was living the words of Jesus right before my eyes that morning, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" (Acts 20:35) May God bless his giving heart! I still think about little Luke and his sweet smile and his example to me of the joy of giving. Unselfish, cheerful, willing joy of giving. Luke's example also reminds me of some other words of Jesus when He said, "*Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*" (Matthew 18:3-4) I hope I may always try to have a heart as unselfish and willing to give as Luke's.

It really is more blessed to give than to receive as a little boy so clearly demonstrated to me on a lovely September morning. The joy is in the giving. I believe that I will never again drink anything so sweet as Luke's lemonade.

~Heather Pryor

Ladies Bible Class – We are continuing a study on prayer titled “Unto Thee, O Lord.” Read and do the November assignments for a personal study this month. Class will resume in January.

Search the Scriptures

“Givers”

Match the giver on the left with what was given on the right.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Mary | a. His only begotten Son |
| _____ 2. Barnabas | b. five loaves and two fish |
| _____ 3. Poor widow | c. robe, armor, sword, bow and belt |
| _____ 4. Jesus | d. gold, frankincense, myrrh |
| _____ 5. Jacob & Rachel | e. money from a land sale |
| _____ 6. a young boy | f. a pound of spikenard oil |
| _____ 7. Dorcas | g. His life |
| _____ 8. God | h. two mites |
| _____ 9. Jonathan | i. a coat of many colors |
| _____ 10. wise men | j. clothes for widows |

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

“Feasting on the Word”

Complete the following verses. Quotations are taken from the NKJV.

1. “Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16
2. “O God, you are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.” Psalm 63:1
3. “For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.” Psalm 107:9
4. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6

RECIPE CORNER

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

These recipes feature white chocolate so we can have a "white Christmas" in Florida after all!

WHITE CHOCOLATE CRANBERRY OATMEAL COOKIES

- 2 cups old-fashioned oats
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup chopped white chocolate or chips, frozen for 20 min.

In a small bowl, combine oats and water; set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda and salt; set aside. In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. As soon as it's melted, remove from heat and stir in sugar and brown sugar. Add egg, stirring quickly until incorporated. Add flour mixture to the pan and stir to combine. Stir in oats, cranberries, and white chocolate. Cover dough with plastic wrap and chill in refrigerator at least 2 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Drop cookies by rounded tablespoon onto prepared cookie sheets and bake until brown on top, 13-15 minutes. Let cool completely before moving. Yield: About 40 cookies

PEPPERMINT WHITE CHOCOLATE COCOA

- 4 cups milk
- 8 oz. chopped white chocolate
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. peppermint extract

Stir the milk and chopped white chocolate together in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally, until the mixture comes to a simmer and the chocolate is melted. (Do not let it come to a boil or let the chocolate burn on the bottom.) Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and peppermint extract. Top with whipped cream and crushed peppermints.