

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

October 2015

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The Boo Hoo Award

On the table sits a large purple onion. Along one side of it two large googly eyes have been glued on. Underneath the eyes, a bright red line of lipstick marks a mouth. And to make it complete, a small sparkly princess tiara sits perched atop its narrow head. This lovely little gem is known as the Boo Hoo Award. Unlike other awards, no one wants to get the Boo Hoo Award because it is only awarded to someone who complains...

I heard a preacher's wife talking about her church's annual ladies retreat and how enjoyable it is. The same two ladies organize it every year and they are the (oh, so clever) ones who came up with the Boo Hoo Award. The very first year the event was held, it was explained to all of the ladies up front that the weekend was meant to be enjoyed as a time of refreshment, fellowship, and spiritual growth, and there would be absolutely. no. complaining. If a complaint or subtle murmur were detected by their ever-listening ears, the unlucky lady who muttered such complaint would receive the large purple onion. To even whisper it wasn't safe. She would then be saddled with the "award" until some other unfortunate soul complained out loud at which time the previous recipient would eagerly pass it on. The bottom line became – no one wanted the Boo Hoo Award! As a result, everyone was very careful to think before they spoke the entire weekend and nothing but positive things were said. Hmmm...what a concept.

An interesting question was posed in an article I read recently. It asked: "If you went 24 hours without uttering a single complaint, how it would change things?" As I began to consider that question, I could see how it would change a lot of things. A complaining mouth is an outward indicator of an inside problem. The problem could be one of harboring anger, envy, pride, or downright discontent. Complaining indicates we are unhappy with our circumstances or with others and we are going to make it known. Does it change anything? Does it solve anything? And more importantly, is it right to do so? Jesus answers this question pretty

bluntly in John 6:43 when he says, “Do not murmur among yourselves.” And the apostle Paul follows it up in Philippians 2:14 by saying, “Do **all** things without murmuring and complaining.” So how many things are we allowed to complain about? None. Zip. Nada. Zilch.

The point of the question in the article and the Boo Hoo Award is to remind us to guard our tongues and to think before we speak. Even though it may seem like a piece of cake to go 24 hours or even an entire weekend without complaining once, it's a lot harder than it looks. Try it and see. Complaining, unfortunately, can become a habitual way of speaking until we don't even realizing we're doing it – constantly. The ladies at the retreat were so fearful of receiving the dreaded purple onion that they were watching what they said every minute. Why don't we do that anyway? As Christians, we are commanded to. James 1:26 reminds us, “If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.” Ouch! We can actually render our Christian example as useless if we aren't watching what we say. You may remember the little bunny Thumper in the old Disney movie *Bambi* whose mother would constantly warn him, “If you can't say something nice...don't say anything at all!” Good advice, not only from a mama to a child but for all of us. King David has some pretty good advice for us as well if we're struggling to control our tongues. In Psalm 39:1 he says, “I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth a muzzle...”

As you go through your week, work on being very mindful each day of the words that you say. Would you win the Boo Hoo Award for complaining? I hope not. I pray we all develop hearts of thankfulness and lips that open with words of kindness and wisdom. ~Heather Pryor

Some people complain that God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses on thorns.

Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining. ~Theodore Roosevelt

There is no personal charm so great as the charm of a cheerful temperament. ~Henry van Dyke

Ladies Bible Class – Mark your calendars! Our next ladies Bible class will be **Saturday, October 31st at 9:00 a.m.** Please bring your Bible, your notes from your study and a breakfast item to share. We are beginning a study on prayer titled “Unto Thee, O Lord.” Read and do the September assignments and we will discuss them at the October class.

Search the Scriptures “Complainers”

What was each of the following complaining about and to whom were they complaining?

1. Genesis 30:1-2 – Rachel _____

2. Exodus 15:24 – Children of Israel _____

3. Numbers 11:4-6 – Children of Israel _____

4. John 12:3-7 – Judas _____

5. Acts 6:1 – Hellenist Christians _____

Answers to Last Month's Quiz “Students & Teachers”

 e. 1. Philip

a. Apollos

 d. 2. Gamaliel

b. students in the school of Tyrannus

 a. 3. Aquila & Priscilla

c. Timothy

 c. 4. Eunice & Lois

d. Paul

 b. 5. Paul

e. Ethiopian eunuch

RECIPE CORNER

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

PUMPKIN BREAD ROLLS WITH CINNAMON BUTTER

Bread:

- 1 packet instant yeast
- 1 cup whole milk, scalded and cooled to lukewarm
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 3 T. unsalted butter, melted
- ½ cup pumpkin puree
- 2 large eggs, divided
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- sliced pecans for the "stems"

In an electric mixer bowl fitted with dough hook attachment, stir yeast, milk, sugar, butter, pumpkin, one egg, and salt until well combined. Gradually add flour and knead on medium-low speed until the dough pulls away from the sides of the bowl. Turn off mixer and let dough rest for 3-5 minutes. Knead on medium-low speed again for 5 minutes or until the dough is soft and smooth. If too sticky, add more flour. Transfer dough to a large greased bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and let dough rise until doubled in size. Punch dough down and turn onto lightly floured work surface. Divide dough into 15 balls. Use the palm of your hand to slightly flatten each ball. With a paring knife, cut 8 slices around each ball, being careful not to slice all the way into the center. This shapes the rolls like pumpkins. Cover and let rise again until double in size. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Using the end of a wooden spoon, make a small indentation in the center of each roll. Beat the remaining egg with 2 teaspoons of water and brush all over the rolls. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Place a sliced pecan into the indentation for the "stem." Serve with cinnamon butter.

Butter:

- 1 stick unsalted butter, room temperature
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

Beat butter for 30 seconds then add in remaining ingredients and blend until well combined.