

# *Heart to Heart*

Devotional Thoughts for Women

March 2018

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## **Dig Your Ditches**

A story was told of a severe drought in the land one springtime, worrisome enough that a farmer was fervently praying to God for rain so that he and his family would be able to plant their crops and survive. Day after day the farmer fervently prayed for rain, and day after day, the clear blue sky showed no signs of gathering storm clouds. Yet one morning, the faithful farmer went out to his barn and hitched up his horse to the plow. He trudged silently out to his fields and began walking his horse up and down the long rows, digging deep furrows to receive the seed. One of the neighbors stopped by and watched in amazement for several minutes. He squinted up at the scorching sun, then looked back at the farmer, shaking his head. "What on earth are you doing?" he called out. The farmer kept his eyes on the field, continued to plow, and calmly answered back, "I'm preparing for rain."

In II Kings 3, Jehoram, the king of Israel was irritated. The king of Moab had been paying tribute to Jehoram's father for many years but had now rebelled against Jehoram and refused to make any more payments to the king of Israel. Jehoram applied for help to his ally Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, and Jehoshaphat agreed to go to battle with him against Moab. They traveled by way of Edom, and their king joined the alliance as well. Three kings now marched with their armies to face the might of Moab. They may have started out feeling confident in their own might and numbers, but along the way, they encountered a serious problem. II Kings 3:9 says that these three armies marched for seven days straight, but there was no water to be found for them or their animals. This was a dire situation. Without water, death was certain. These kings and their

armies were in the middle of a deserted wilderness with no foreseeable way of immediately obtaining water. Fighting the king of Moab was now the least of their problems. Their only thought was one of survival.

Jehoshaphat was a godly king. He knew the thing to do was to turn to the Lord for guidance and help. He inquired whether there was any prophet of the Lord nearby, and as it so happened, Elisha was close enough for he and the other two kings to visit. Elisha was not altogether pleased to see this group (II Kings 3:13-14), but he did have a high regard for the faithfulness of king Jehoshaphat. Elisha received a message from the Lord to give to these three kings. He told them that they could look at the sky, and they would see no sign of rain or even feel a breath of wind that would indicate a coming storm. Yet, God wanted them to start digging ditches to receive all of the water that He was about to send. They were told to prepare by making the entire valley full of ditches. God would then send them so much water, all of the ditches would be filled and the armies and animals would be able to drink their fill. Not only would God provide the much-needed water for their survival, but He also promised to deliver the Moabites into their hand.

That very day, three armies immediately set to work. Under the hot blazing sun, they dug ditches. They filled the entire valley wherein they were camped from one end to the other with ditches. At the end of the day, there was still no sign of rain. No breath of wind, no gathering storm clouds. Just a silent valley full of freshly dug ditches. But the next morning, after the grain offering was offered, *“suddenly water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water.”* (II Kings 3:20) God did exactly as He promised, and the three armies survived.

What would have happened if they had not dug their ditches? Would God have still sent the rain? Have you been praying about something in your life, maybe something you are struggling with, but have not started digging your ditches? In last month's *Heart to Heart*, we pondered the need to have patience and included the

thought of having patience in prayer as we wait on the Lord to answer. However, sometimes God is patiently waiting on us to do our part so He can do His.

If you're experiencing drought in your life and have been praying for rain, don't neglect to do your part to prepare to receive what God wants to give you. Dig your ditches. ~Heather Pryor

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*Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*  
~Mark 11:24

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**Ladies Bible Class & Breakfast** – Mark your calendars for **March 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will continue our study of the book of Hebrews. (Book Lesson #6) Keep reading the entire book of Hebrews.

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### **Search the Scriptures**

#### **“Be prepared”**

1. What happened to the servant who did not prepare himself to do the will of his master? (Luke 12:47)
2. What will be brought to us if we prepare our minds? (I Peter 1:13)
3. Who prepares in summer for the harvest? (Proverbs 6:6-8)

#### **Answers to last month's quiz**

1. Who couldn't wait for Samuel to arrive to offer the sacrifice so he did it himself? Saul (I Samuel 13:5-14)
2. Who waited 120 years for rain? Noah (Genesis 6:3, 13-17)
3. Who waited in an Egyptian prison for years before becoming second in command of all the land? Joseph (Genesis 39:20-41:14)
4. Who waited for years for a son then gave him back to God to be in service to Him all his days? Hannah (I Samuel 1)

# RECIPE CORNER

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

## STRAWBERRY BREAD AND BUTTER

### Bread:

2 cups plus 2 T. flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
2 ¼ cup sugar  
10 oz. frozen strawberries, thawed and patted dry  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 ¼ cup oil  
4 eggs

### Butter:

8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
2 T. butter, softened  
5 oz. frozen strawberries, thawed  
16 oz. powdered sugar



Bread: Sift first five ingredients together into a large bowl. Add strawberries, vanilla, oil, and eggs. Gently mix together. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease two regular size loaf pans. Pour batter into prepared pans and bake for 40 minutes. Remove from oven and cool in pan on wire rack. When cooled, carefully remove bread from pans. Bread will be very moist. Butter: Cream together the butter and cream cheese in a bowl. Add powdered sugar and mix well. Gradually add strawberries, stirring until spreading consistency is reached. Slice cooled bread and serve with butter.