

Heart to Heart

Devotional Thoughts for Women

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The Things You Do For Love

When I was a little girl, I had a beautiful fluffy black and white cat whom I named Jingles. I raised her from a kitten, and since I lived out in the country with few neighbors, Jingles became my favorite playmate. She had to live outside because my mother was allergic to cats, but in spite of that, she always stayed close to home and was there whenever I wanted her. Until one day, she wasn't. Jingles went missing. My parents tried to reassure me as the panic mounted in my little six year old heart. After a couple days, she finally reappeared on our back porch, limping, and with a huge round red bump on one of her paws. My mother braved her allergies and took Jingles to the vet. The verdict? The leg containing the injured foot would have to be amputated. The chances of Jingles surviving very long with only three legs were not especially high, but lowered even more considering she lived outside full-time, and we lived out in the country. So, we were faced with an expensive operation – on a cat – that had little chance of surviving long after. On top of all that, my father grew up on a farm with a lot of cats, and there was never a time that they took one of them to a vet, much less would have ever dreamed of paying for an amputation for one of them. On the farm, if a cat was injured and got sick and died...well, that was just the way of things. But there was another factor in this equation...a father's love for his little girl. A love that overcame the common sense of putting the animal out of its misery or saving the money altogether and just letting the cat fend for herself. No, this father's love paid for a cat to have its leg amputated so it could be returned to the arms of a little girl who loved her. Because that's what love does.

Love puts others before self. Philippians 2:3, “*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*” Romans 12:10, “*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.*” I John 4:10-11, “*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*” Love considers the interests and needs of others first.

Love goes the extra mile. Matthew 5:41, “*And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.*” Luke 6:27-30, “*But I say to you who hear: Love you enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.*” Love goes above and beyond what is expected.

Love sacrifices. I John 3:16-18, “*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*” John 15:13, “*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*” Love is willing to give up everything.

One day, a heavenly Father looked down at a little girl here on earth, and He loved her. He loved her so much that He was willing to overcome the justice of letting her pay for her own sins. He was willing to pay the highest price there was in order to save that girl's soul so she could one day be returned to the arms of the Lord who loved her. This is what God did for me, and what He does for you. “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have*

everlasting life.” (John 3:16) Because that is what love does.

~Heather Pryor

(Postscript: Jingles the cat not only survived quite well on her remaining three legs, but she went on to have a litter of six kittens and outlived them all.)

Ladies Bible Class and Breakfast – Mark your calendars for **July 21st, 9:00 a.m.** If you have a study guide, please read Lesson 9 and Hebrews chapter 10 before class and remember to bring your Bible and a breakfast item to share.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, it not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. ~I Cor. 13:4-8

Search the Scriptures

“The Things They Did For Love”

- 1) Who left her homeland to live with and take care of her widowed mother-in-law? _____
- 2) Who generously took care of his brothers and their families even though they had treated him cruelly? _____
- 3) Who helped his best friend escape the misplaced wrath of the king at risk to his own life? _____
- 4) Who worked for seven years in order to be able to marry the woman he loved? _____

RECIPE CORNER

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

What's summer without homemade ice cream?!? (These ice cream recipes each yield a half gallon and are suitable for an electric ice cream maker such as Cuisinart that does not require ice and rock salt.)

HOMEMADE VANILLA ICE CREAM

- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 1 1/8 cup granulated sugar
- 3 cups heavy cream
- 1 1/2 T. pure vanilla extract

In a medium mixing bowl, combine milk and sugar, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Stir in the heavy cream and vanilla. Turn the machine on and pour the mixture into the freezer bowl. Let it churn for about 25 minutes. This yields a soft serve consistency. To thicken, place ice cream in an airtight container and freeze for about 2 hours.

HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM

- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 3 1/4 cups heavy cream
- 1 T. pure vanilla extract

Place the cocoa and sugars in a medium mixing bowl. Stir to combine. Add the whole milk and whisk until sugars are dissolved. Stir in the heavy cream and vanilla. Turn machine on and pour mixture into freezer bowl. Mix until thickened, about 30 to 35 minutes. The ice cream will be soft serve consistency. To thicken, place ice cream in an airtight container and freeze for about 2 hours.