

A Library For The Youth

Short Stories

29 - 31

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Story Number 29

A Little Girl Saves Her Parents

The eyes of the little girl became wet. They were then filled with tears, and, when saturated, start to fall heavily. At last, the little girl's hoarse voice came louder when she spoke to her Sunday School teacher:

– “What do you mean?”; Will Mom and Dad go to Hell because they drink alcohol!?! Am I going to go with them to Hell too?”

The teacher felt cornered. He did not know how to answer this question now. He had told the children before that whoever drinks alcohol will end up in Hell.

The little girl's tears caught the attention of other children in the class. Her teacher had to take her to the Communion Sanctuary next to the Altar where it was quiet. He finally said:

- “Do not worry dear, The Lord God can make Mom and Dad abstain from drinking.”
- “But how ?”, answered the little girl.
- “By praying for them.”
- “If we pray for them now, when do you think that God will make them stop drinking?”
- “In about a month.”
- “If we pray longer, will God make them quit drinking sooner, say in a week?”
- “God can do everything.”
- “If the prayer is more heartily, can God make them quit tonight?”

Taken by the faith of the little girl, the teacher assured her that it is certainly possible.

He told the little girl:

- “If you see Mom or Dad bringing alcohol home, all you have to do is go to your bedroom, kneel before The Lord, and ask Him to avert Mom and Dad from drinking.”

Full of faith and hope, the little girl returned home while thinking that God will make her parents stop drinking that very evening.

When darkness fell, the little girl saw her Dad returning home and holding a bottle. She rushed to her room and knelt on her knees. She started crying and speaking with God:

- “O Jesus, please prevent Mom and Dad from drinking.”

The little girl’s mother has prepared the table for supper. When her Dad put down the bottle on the table, somehow, it flipped-over and fell to the hard floor. It broke and the alcohol spilled out. Mom started to clean the spill while Dad went to the store and bought another bottle. The same scene was repeated again and, when it happened for the third time, he pledged not to drink alcohol ever again!!!

When the father noticed that his little daughter is not present for supper, he went to her room to check on her. He found the little girl kneeling and weeping fervently. He tried to listen to her mumbling words and heard her saying:

- “Dear Jesus, my beloved savior, please prevent Mom and Dad from drinking alcohol, I am longing to see that they have a place with You in the glory of the eternal heaven.”

Dad hugged his little girl warmly and asked her why was she doing what’s making her cry so fiercely. She told him what happened in Sunday School that morning.

Dad and Mom, both, cried bitterly. They took the little girl at night and went to visit the Bishop of Luxur in Upper Egypt. The parents confessed to the bishop for the first time and asked for forgiveness.

From that point on, their home became a little church for worship.

This is a true story happened in Luxur. I heard it when I was a student. As we can see, if the teacher did not give his coaching in a suitable manner, and, if the father was not practicing his Christian life in an appropriate manner, yet the little girl has overcome both shortcomings by her faith. Her faith has exceeded the faith of her hesitant teacher and enabled a significant change in the lives of her parents. Likewise, a little boy, a youngster or a chap can realize a lot of changes in the life of his family or his church through his faith.

Teach Me Lord to be Interested in The Life of my Parents.

- ✦ While my parents are trying to meet all my needs
I, too, can offer them something valuable
Grant me to be a living image of You before them,
To testify to Your love and my obedience to my savior

- ✠ Teach me to pray, while I am so young, for the sake of my family,
and for the sake of the whole human race!
 - ✠ Teach me to offer my kneeling to Your Glory for my family,
and for the sake of all my friends and all men!
- Amen.

Story Number 30:

Believe Me, I Love Him

Years ago, while I was in my way to Cairo to teach Paternology (the science of studying the writings and quotations of the forefathers), I met with a person, sitting next to me in the train. He seemed to be in his sixties. He told me the following story: “My job is a manager at: My relationship with all my colleagues and subordinates is excellent. We all live in a family atmosphere.

My supervisor started to annoy me with no apparent reason. He was so arrogant with me to the extent that irritated even my subordinates, since we were all engaged in a caring relationship. He intensified his pressure more and more every day. I contemplated taking an early retirement, as my only way out of a heart attack, or another serious illness caused by excessive stress. The idea started to take hold of my mental capacity, but I decided to take two weeks vacation. I wanted to have a secluded opportunity with my God before taking a final decision. So, I went alone to my apartment in ‘Abu-Keer.’

I dedicated the two weeks entirely for prayer, especially using the Book of Psalms, in a quiet and enjoyable atmosphere. I forgot all my problems and tribulations, and, asked my Lord for direction. My prayers resulted in taking the decision of continue to work,

regardless of what my superior can come up with in terms of antagonism! It is up to me to tolerate him with cheer.

I had forgotten all of my superior’s actions, and I went to work the day after my vacation with longing to see him! God has put in my heart a tremendous love for that man.

I met with my colleagues and subordinates who greeted me with sincere warmth, as a family member. Then they said to me: ‘What have you done with your supervisor?’ When I exclaimed the nature and tone of their question, they explained: ‘Today is his funeral.’ I was shocked. Out of my shock, I wept profusely. Everyone felt that I was sincere in my love for him. I told them: ‘Believe me, I love the man!’

They were all surprised to hear that from a person who was always a target for his enmity. They have not realized that prayers grant you a heart that is big enough for loving everyone. Prayer makes your heart not to succumb to tribulations.”



My dear youth,

It seems that every human being in the world faces perturbations, not because life is a constant source of pain but because our hearts are too narrow to accommodate the tribulations of life. The real need is not for the nuisance to go away, but for our hearts to grow wider and make room for any tribulation regardless of its size.

Acquaintance with God, is “total love.” It gives your heart perseverance and joy amongst distress.

We do not deny the realities of life with all its agonies. But prayer gives you support that converts your tears to “heavenly healing.” Rom 5:35 “....., we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the

love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.”



Will my heart be bothered with tribulations?!

- ✙ Will my heart be bothered with tribulations while You liveth in me?!
Your inhabiting my heart converts it to a haven,
So life’s agonies cannot capture my soul,
and people’s malice cannot hurt me!
- ✙ I meet thee, I talk with thee, my heart then gets bigger with thine love,
I love, in righteousness, even my adversaries,
I seek, in righteousness their safety and salvation,
So, I enjoy my life, in spite of pain
- ✙ Teach me how to communicate with thee,
Grant me the privilege of embracing thee,
So, I bear a true love for every man.

Story Number 31

Father Mina passed away.

In my informal conversation once with the late Nazmi Bottros, he told me: “Do you know how my friendship with His Holiness Pope Kirolos VI, was developed?” I answered that I did not know. He then said:

“In the beginning, I did not know him very well, but rather I knew of him, and I had heard controversies about him. When he was a candidate for papacy, I attacked him violently in editorials of some newspaper. When he was chosen and ordained, I went to congratulate him for pontification.

After greeting him, while noticing how cheerful he was, I thought that he has never read my editorials. Then, still cheerful, told me with a smile: ‘They say so and so about me’, mentioning my accusations. I answered by asking his forgiveness since I did not really know him that well. His Holiness then smiled and said: ‘You have not attacked me, you have attacked Father ‘Mina the Lonesome.’ Father Mina passed away. I am Kirolos, the father of all!’

I felt how large is the heart of this holy man; and, from that point on, we became buddies, our relationship was that of great affection.”

This is a story of a big heart, knows how to win people with his love, and convert even his adversaries to friends. He internalized

the fact that the greatness of a human being lies not in his status or his popularity, but in his interest towards everyone, so to make of him a personal friend.

Do not say that because he was a pope and patriarch, his job was to win everybody and should be able to forgive. Indeed, the big heart is not necessarily a symptom of a church rank or of age. It is a manifestation of how roomy the heart is to accommodate God.



My small heart shall vanish!

- ✠ May my small heart vanish,
so I can bear your big heart
- ✠ My small heart has become an exceedingly narrow grave,
that cannot tolerate the nuisance of others,
and frequently misunderstands them!
- ✠ Replace the small grave in me with a big sanctuary,
so the doors of heaven open wide inside me.