

Micki's Meanderings

Fall Greetings!

Fall is one of my favorite seasons, so beautiful with the leaves changing and the autumn mums blooming in all their colorful glory. I encourage you to spend time outdoors and enjoy the beauty of fall!

I came across this and really enjoyed the message, I hope you do too.

Old Ben

A minister passing through his church in the middle of the day decided to pause by the altar to see who came to pray. Just then the back door opened and a man came down the aisle. The minister frowned as he saw the man. The man hadn't shaved in a while, his shirt was torn and shabby and his coat was worn and frayed. The man knelt down and bowed his head, then rose and walked away.

In the days that followed at precisely noon, the preacher saw this chap. Each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap. Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear.

He decided to stop and ask the man, "What are you doing here?" The old man said he was a factory worker and lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer time, for finding strength and power. I stay only a moment because the factory's far away. As I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

"I just came by to tell you, Lord, how happy I have been since we found each other's friendship and you took away my sin. Don't know much of how to pray, but I think about you every day. So, Jesus, this is Ben, just checking in today."

The minister, feeling foolish, told Ben that it was fine. He told the man that he was welcome to pray there any time. "It's time to go, and thanks," Ben said as he hurried to the door.

Then the minister knelt there at the altar, which he hadn't done for quite a while. His cold heart melted, warmed

with love. As he met with Jesus there, the tears flowed down his cheeks; he repeated old Ben's prayer:

"I just came by to tell you Lord, how happy I've been, since we found each other's friendship and you took away my sin. I don't know much of how to pray, but I think about you every day. So, Jesus, this is me, just checking in today."

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Ben hadn't come. As more days passed and still no Ben, he began to worry some. At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worked, but he'd given them a thrill.

The week that Ben was with them brought changes to the ward. His smiles and joy contagious, changed people were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Ben could be so glad, when no flowers, calls or cards came, not a visitor he had.

The minister stayed by his bed and voiced the nurse's concern. No friends had come to show they cared, he had nowhere to turn. Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up and with a winsome smile said, "The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, He's been here all the while. Every day at noon He comes here, a dear friend of mine, you see, He sits right down and takes my hand, leans over and says to me:"

"I just came by to tell you, Ben, how happy I have been since we found this friendship and I took away your sin. I think about you always and I love to hear you pray, and so Ben, this is Jesus, just checking in today."

I encourage you to share this with a friend because as we all know many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

Take care Her Voice friends,

Micki