

October 31, 2021

Scott's Thoughts



“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13, ESV)

I'm on a constant search for stories that can help me illustrate a thought. This week I

found one that brought a tear to my eye, and I thought I must share it.

Box Full of Kisses

Some time ago, a man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, “This is for you, Daddy.”

The man became embarrassed by his overreaction earlier, but his rage continued when he saw that the box was empty. He yelled at her; “Don't you know, when you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside?”

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and cried; “Oh, Daddy, it's not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They're all for you, Daddy.”

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness.

A short time later, an accident took the life of the child.

Her father kept the gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and

remember the love of the child who had put it there.

I have never lost a child and hope that I never have to deal with that heartache. Nevertheless, I can relate to the father in this story. At times, I have seen disappointment on the face of my children and grandchildren when all they wanted was to share love in their humble way. Children freely give of their love with the best that they can muster and all they want in return is nothing more than the love they are sharing.

As time has passed, I've gotten better at slowing down enough to see the moments they are extending their love. I've also gotten better at returning love. It is amazing how little it takes to return love and also to be the one who extends it in the first place. It can take so many forms, holding a door for my wife, holding my tongue, a kiss on the cheek, a little surprise, doing the dishes, and more. At the end of the day the big gifts and the big displays are gone and faded. But with the passing of time, what really counts are the little trinkets I can hold in my hand and look at fondly as the memories swirl through my mind.

Our father in heaven has displayed His love over the centuries and unlike me, He has recognized every single time I have tried to express my love for Him. The difference is in how often I fail to recognize His love and return that love as I should.

“nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:39, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott

Box Full of Kisses found on internet under “*Ten Inspirational stories*”