

When Mom isn't feeling well, the whole family notices



America's Heartland
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"Mom, I'm really, really sorry that you're not feeling well," he said. "But I want you to know I can handle this. I'm getting bigger now. And I believe I'm perfectly able to pick you up and carry you down to the stove."

One thing is sure, when a Mom isn't able to do all the things she ordinarily does, we begin to understand just how important her role is.

I'd hope that could be said for all of us, whether we're moms or not. But, the Bible tells us that there are some people in this world who don't do enough to be missed. In fact, there are some who do very little other than sit and watch things fall apart.

"I went by the field of the

slothful and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding, and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down" (Proverbs 24:30-31).

King Solomon, who wrote that Proverb, said he learned from the slothful man that a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of hands in idleness is all that's necessary to come to poverty. Solomon is saying we need to get off our rears and work, to do the things around the house, around the farm, around the office that need to be done.

The slothful man's vineyard didn't become overgrown with thorns overnight. It happened

little by little. The stones in the wall around that vineyard didn't fall over in one day. It happened little by little. The slothful man could have made small repairs as they were needed, but he didn't. Instead, he sat back and let the entire place go to pot.

I read a news article the other day about a woman in another state who died, but no one noticed. In fact, by the time someone did notice, she had been dead somewhere between a year and a year and half.

You might ask, how could someone be dead that long without someone noticing? I'll leave you to ponder that. Perhaps by some sad turn of events she had been wid-

owed and had no children to check on her. Perhaps she was new to her neighborhood and hadn't yet forged relationships with her neighbors.

But this much is certain, if that dear woman had been contributing in a meaningful way to those around her, her death would have been noticed immediately.

I hope we'd all strive to be like that teenage boy's Mom, sorely missed when we're not able to do the things we typically do for others. If ever we're in bed sick, let's hope there'd be a long line of people standing ready to carry us to the stove.

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Kitchen Diva by Angela Shelf Medearis Cupcake-Making Tips from Betty Crocker

While Betty Crocker is often associated with 1950s happy homemaking, she originally belonged to a different generation. Created in 1921 as a "friend to homemakers" for the Washburn Crosby Company (a forerunner to General Mills) in Minneapolis, her purpose was to answer consumer mail. "She" was actually the women of the Home Service Department who signed Betty's name.

Eventually, Betty Crocker's local radio show on WCCO expanded, and audiences around the nation tuned her in, tried her money-saving recipes and wrote Betty nearly 5,000 fan letters per day. "Your talks ... have given me hope," wrote one listener to the Betty Crocker radio program during the Depression.

A fascinating book, "Finding Betty Crocker" (Minnesota Heritage, 2007), by author and documentary producer Susan Marks, offers a unique look at the culinary and marketing history of America's First Lady of Food. According to Marks' largely chronological "biography" (there was no real Betty Crocker), it was human connections like this one that made Crocker one of the most successful marketing tools ever. Filled with treasures from the General Mills archive -- including letters sent to Crocker during World War II, reprints of famous recipes and advertisements, and portraits updated through the years -- Marks' book introduces readers to the people who breathed life into Crocker's image as the happiest of homemakers.

With these basic items and tips courtesy of the Betty Crocker website (www.bettycrocker.com), you can bake and decorate a batch of beautiful cupcakes in a snap.

CUPCAKE MAKING TIPS

Staples:

- * Betty Crocker boxed cake mixes in a variety of flavors
- * Ready-to-spread frostings
- * Decorating icing, assorted colors
- * Decorating gels, assorted colors
- * Food colors (liquid, gel or paste). Try paste food color for more vivid color frosting
- * Assorted colored sugars and edible glitters
- * Assorted candy sprinkles

Equipment:

- * Cupcake pans (mini and regular)
- * Paper baking cups, available in a variety of colors and prints. Find them in supermarkets, party, craft or specialty cake decorating stores.

* Resealable food-storage plastic bags for piping icings and glazes.

Tip: Baking Pans

A box of cake mix makes 24 to 30 cupcakes in regular-size cupcake pan. There also are pans that have mini, large and jumbo cups. If you have only one pan and a recipe calls for more cupcakes than your pan will make, just cover and refrigerate the rest of the batter while baking the first batch. Cool the pan about 15 minutes, then bake the rest of the batter, adding 1 to 2 minutes to the bake time.

An easy way to fill baking cups is to use an ice cream scoop. Use one that measures out 1/3 cup batter when filling regular-size cups. Use one that measures out 2 tablespoons batter when filling mini cups.

Frosting Tips:

* Carefully dip tops of cupcake into the frosting, give a slight twist and remove. Finish off with a swirl of a knife if needed.

* Dip frosted cupcakes into bowls of nuts, colored sugar, sprinkles or other decors for easy decorating.

Storing Cupcakes:

1. Cool cupcakes completely before covering to keep tops from becoming sticky (about 30 minutes).
2. Loosely cover cupcakes that will be frosted later so the tops stay dry. If covered tightly, they become sticky and difficult to frost.
3. Store cupcakes with a creamy-type frosting loosely covered with foil, plastic wrap or waxed paper, or under a cake safe or inverted bowl
4. Refrigerate cupcakes with whipped-cream toppings or cream fillings.
5. Frost cupcakes with fluffy frosting on the day they are to be served.
6. Freeze cupcakes two to three months, tightly wrapped.
7. To keep frosting on frosted cupcakes from sticking, freeze cupcakes uncovered 1 hour, then insert a toothpick in the top of the cupcake, and tightly wrap.
8. Thaw cupcakes in the refrigerator or on the countertop.
9. When thawing on the countertop, loosen or remove wrapping to prevent condensation.
10. Decorating gel, hard candies and colored sugars do not freeze well because they tend to run during thawing.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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CUPCAKES

Walking With God And Holding Hands With The Devil

Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021 Message
 Bro. Warren Rogers, Retired Baptist Minister
 Based on Genesis 13

This is what a lot of people are trying to do -- claim to be Christians but steal, cheat, lie, etc. "They want their cake and eat it, too."

Matthew 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Read Genesis 13:8-13.

"And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. ⁹Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."

Genesis 13:8-9

How did Lot end up in such a sinful place?

Three reasons:

#1 Lot looked toward Sodom: Lot took his eyes off what God wanted for him, and he started looking at the wealth of the world. "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where . . . even as the garden of the LORD." Genesis 13:10

Lot knew that Sodom was a sinful place, but he chose to not let little things like that interfere with business. -- Walking with God and holding hands with the devil.

The question we should ask ourselves when we have a major decision to make, "Is this what God wants me to do?" Lot made a decision on **what he wanted, not what God wanted.**

#2 Lot longed for Sodom: "Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom." Genesis 13:12 He probably thought, "we can live close, but we won't participate in their sins." Soon, the attraction was too much to resist. **James 4:4**, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

It boils right down to, "if you hang out with the wrong crowd, you will be drawn into their lifestyle." You can say -- you will never give into sin, never deny Christ, cheat, or lie -- but you live close enough to the world, and you will be surprised what will happen. Satan sees his opportunity and works hard to make you backslide.

There is an old saying, "Men as well as rivers grow crooked by following the path of least resistance." People do not decide to become alcoholics, drug addicts, prostitutes, thieves; they pitch their tents toward Sodom. Lot didn't mean for this to happen. It just started and snowballed. This what happens to the ones listed above.

Albert Einstein said, "I do not fear the explosive power of the atom bomb. What I fear is the explosive power of the human heart."

#3 Lot lived in Sodom: He faced the appeal of Sodom, easy living, lots of water for the flocks. If we choose to live in a sinful environment, we will eventually be drawn closer to sin.

In the end, Lot lost his wife, lost his married daughters and sons-in-laws, lost respect of his unmarried daughters -- See Genesis 19:30-38. He lost wealth, family, and peace of mind. Friends, we've got to watch out for Satan and his tactics. We've got to watch out for the ways of the world. We've got to follow Jesus.

Until next week, may God bless you is my prayer. If you need to contact me, you can call 606-481-0444. If you need a supply speaker or special singing, I would be glad to come.

Warren Rogers, Retired Baptist preacher

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

