

A Box of Kisses

The story goes that some time ago, a man punished his three-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."

He was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty. He yelled at her, "Don't you know when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside it?"

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy."

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

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the man kept that gold box by his bed for many years. Whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of a child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, friends, family, and especially from God. There is no more precious possession anyone can hold.

--Beecher Hunter