

Coins in the Loaf

I read a story about a rich baker who sent for 20 of the poorest children in town. He said to them, when they had assembled, "In this basket is a loaf of bread for each of you. Take one and come back every day and I'll give you more."

Immediately, the youngsters began quarreling about who would get the largest loaf. Snatching from the basket, they left without even thanking the baker.

Gretchen, a poorly dressed little girl, patiently waited until the others had left. She then took the smallest loaf, which remained in the basket, kissed the old man's hand, and went home.

The next day, the scene was repeated. But when Gretchen's mother sliced this loaf, she found many shiny silver pieces inside. Gretchen took the money back to the baker, but he insisted that she keep it. "No, my child, it was not a mistake. I put them into the smallest loaf to reward you."

Self-interest is not wrong, but the Christ-like way is to also look out for the interests of others. To live for self and get ahead brings limited reward, but if we look on others' needs, we're honored by the Lord.

And that ought to bring great assurance to the associates of Life Care and Life Care at Home, who daily sacrifice time, energy and even personal resources for the benefit of our residents.

The Apostle Paul said in his letter to the Philippians (chapter 2, verse 3): "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but ... let each esteem others better than himself."

--Beecher Hunter