

Little Boy's Prayer for Ice Cream

A mother took her children to a crowded restaurant one day. Her 6-year-old son asked if he could say the grace.

He prayed, "God is great and God is good. Let us thank Him for the food, and God, I would thank you even more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, the woman at the very next table growled loudly, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. The very idea ... asking God for ice cream! Why I never."

Hearing this, the little boy burst into tears, and he asked his mother, "Did I do it wrong? I'm sorry. Is God mad at me?"

The little boy's mother pulled him over into her lap. She hugged him tightly and assured him that he had done a terrific job with his prayer, and God was certainly not mad at him.

Just then, an elderly gentleman walked over to the table. He winked at the boy, and he said, "I know God really well. We visit every day, and I happen to know that God loved your prayer. It may have been the best one He has heard all day."

"Really?" the little boy asked.

"Cross my heart," said the man. Then he leaned over and whispered into the boy's ear. Pointing at the woman at the next table who had made the remark that started the whole thing, he said, "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, the mother ordered ice cream for her kids at the end of the meal. The 6-year-old stared at his for a moment, and then he did something that no one in that restaurant that day will ever forget. He picked up his sundae, and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman at the next table.

With a big smile, he said to her, "Here. This is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is good already."



(more)

The people in the restaurant applauded. And somewhere in heaven, Jesus was smiling. That little boy had already learned how to look at others with the eyes of sacrificial love.

True sight is a matter of the heart. And that is what Jesus taught long ago. We are all in this together. We are all persons for whom Christ came and died. When we see people differently, when we see them as part of God's family, and when we accept them and embrace them and help them and treat them with respect and love, it changes the way we see ourselves.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:7-8 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter