

# THE MAKING OF A VIOLIN

A mother purchased a new violin for her son. Together, they had saved for months to afford this fine instrument.

He promised to care for it, but it wasn't long before the boy forgot his promise and left his violin on the porch overnight. The cold night air and the heavy morning dew caused the violin to bulge. The sound quality was no longer the same.

The boy's mother took the opportunity to teach her son a lesson for life. She decided to show her son what went into the creation of the violin. She took him to the store where they purchased the violin. They visited a violin manufacturing company and went to a lumber mill where the wood had been carefully chosen for such a fine instrument.

They even visited a forest where trees grew specifically for quality instruments. The mother and son also made trips to learn how the bow and strings were manufactured. She wanted her son to understand why he should be thankful for the beautiful musical instrument with which he had been blessed.

The lesson for us is obvious. It is easier to thank the Lord after we have seen His work. We have something to go back to and rejoice over. It is not as easy to be thankful for what we don't see or haven't experienced. In nature, for example, the coast redwoods and giant sequoia trees of California cannot be appreciated without walking among them. And who can forget the thrill of seeing the ocean for the first time?

God wants our thanks, and He has provided us with a never-ending supply of reminders of why we should be grateful to Him.

When you begin your day in an attitude of gratefulness, it leaves little room for complaints and much room for grace to flourish.

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1Thessalonians 5:18 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter