

Tricked by Treats?



A favorite Halloween memory for me involved my *only* younger brother. Newly returned stateside from overseas, we made our rounds *just on our street* and hauled in a generous supply of boyhood *conquest* worthy, sweet delights. Brother was careful to *make sure* his supply of individually wrapped joy lasted *longer* than mine. Watching *me* look on longingly *while* he savored his remaining stash multiplied his *enjoyment*.

Treats are interesting *and* tricky. The implied message is; 'Work hard, be good, eat good, *all week long* to *deserve* a treat.' Problem; regardless of *how* we savor or snarf our treat the pleasure will *fade*. We can scrimp and *preserve* our stash of treats as long as possible, but sooner or later the sweetness is consumed and the sugar high wears *off* like pain meds taken for an injury. Meds can but *mask* the pain which *returns*.

On the *road* of life nothing is safe. Different from a '*physical*' highway where billboards *on the side* of the road 'traffic' in treats of all kinds. Life's 'road' has enticements *exploding* all over, like a war torn *minefield* of nuclear bombs each *promising* to make us feel good and make life worth living.

Adding to the problem, the 'good' and 'normal' can also show up *hollow* if placed in too high a position. Family, friends, employment, hard work, *even service* are great gifts, but if we place them with *too much importance* suddenly we are afraid of losing them and we have no more joy or satisfaction.

Solomon was the wisest man on earth, *but* he was *unwise* in thinking he *needed* to *test* out every possible pleasure and treat to see if they could quench his thirst. He wisely summed up his frolic in *fluff* that *cannot* fill for each of us to learn from. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments. For this is man's *all*. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing whether good or evil."

It has been said, "Learn from others mistakes, you cannot possibly live long enough to make all of them yourself" Solomon tried every kind of treat and came up *empty*, feeling tricked. He wants you to learn from his folly. Will you?

Are you sick and tired of being tricked by all the treats of life that do not satisfy? Is the cherry atop of your sundae wax?

Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life and died to forgive your sins and mine. His Word says "taste and see that the *Lord* is good"

James 1:16-17 says "Do not be deceived my beloved brethren. Every good gift and perfect gift is *from above* and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

Jesus is the only one who delivers on *all* his promises. Satan is the god of tricky treats. All day long *he* lies; lies; lies.

Today you can be *free* from all the fluff that outside of a relationship with *God* does not deliver what it promises; Money; Fame; Romance; Style; Perfection; Food; Sexual pleasure of all kinds; 'Winning'; Friendships; Control.

God the Father does not just *talk* a good game and *say* He loves us. Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrated His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

Jesus does not need our *help* working in our lives, He does need our *permission*.

Today, say, "Jesus, I am sick of being tricked by treats. I believe you paid my debts for chasing all but you. Forgive me. Help me *learn* to trust you and follow you daily."

Heaven for *eternity* is the *only truly* everlasting *treat*.

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