

Melva's Corner

HAVE A GREAT DAY!

August 1, 2005

Bible Text: Philemon 1:7

Central Truth: You are in the right place, at the right time!

“Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, he gives freedom. And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.” (II Corinthians 3:16-17 NLT)

"What can I get for you this morning, darlin'?" She asked in her southern drawl. "I'll have an egg and cheese biscuit and a small cup of coffee, please." "All right, sweetheart, is there anything else I can get you, Hun."

Prior to retirement just about every morning before going to work I stopped at the “White Hen” convenience store near where I lived in the suburbs of Arlington Heights, IL. And each morning the lady in the store greeted me in the same warm fashion. To hear a southern drawl in that neighborhood was quite unique. Her greeting was not the kind that someone was asked to do by the manager because it's in the employee guidelines. She greeted me as if I were a member of her family who had just walked into her kitchen to sit down and have breakfast. The moment I saw her, no matter how the morning started out, I would catch her contagious smile. I felt happier and more eager to begin another day.

One particular morning as I stood waiting in line for my turn to move forward, I watched the hustle and hurry of this typical morning commute. Behind me in line was a middle-aged man in a suit and tie frequently checking his wristwatch. Behind him was a mom pressing her luck, hoping to get a quick cup of coffee before dropping her child off at school and getting to work herself. There were sounds of cars and trucks zooming by. In all of this, I also watched up ahead of me as the lady greeted a young man on his

way to work with her warm smile and his steaming cup of coffee. "How are you doin this beautiful mornin?" she asked him.

I began to wonder just how many people standing in this line, morning after morning, have already been touched and changed by her simple yet unwavering kindness and her genuine, spirit-filled heart. It's unlikely that her job will bring her wealth, fame, or prestige. I don't believe that's why she chose it. I believe that she knows that God has a special purpose for her. She's allowing Him to reach His children through her one "Good mornin'!" at a time.

In fact, I believe that this special lady was placed at this stop along my journey to remind me of the wonderful ways that God can use all of us to broaden the realm of His Kingdom. No matter where we find ourselves, we can rest assured that God was there before us. He had already decided that it would be the perfect place for us to fulfill His plan. Then he helped place us there. You are in the right place, at the right time! And in that special place, "I sure hope ya'll have a great day now you hear."

Memory Text:

"I myself have gained much joy and comfort from your love ... because your kindness has so often refreshed the hearts of God's people." (Philemon 1:7 NLT)