



pray. fast. give.

Living Lent | Day 13

Pure Joy - Better than Chocolate!

"Taste and see that the Lord is good."

Psalm 3:8 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

When our daughters were small, we would go through antic after antic to coax them into trying a new food, typically a vegetable. Flying a fork with the green bean impaled at the end into their reluctant mouths, exaggerated modeling of how good that carrot was, negotiating a number of bites. If all those strategies failed, we were not above blatant bribery. "Eat two bites of peas and you can have dessert."

As loving parents, we knew the importance of a well-balanced diet to help our girls grow and enjoy good health. Part of the well-balanced part though was encouraging them to taste food that, at first nibble, was not so appealing. Perhaps it was bland, a little squishy, tart, a bit savory, too salty. It took patience and persistence for them to come around and willingly eat a variety of foods. That young palette had to experience tastes beyond the sweet and easy to like. Have you ever noticed that rarely, if ever, a child has to be taught to like chocolate?

We are not so very different when we grow up. It is easy enough for us to praise the Lord and say, "He is good." when all is going our way. Our way. But we get all squirrely, fearful, and uncomfortable when pushed beyond our comfort zones. When life hands us a new vegetable to try. Verse 8 opens a

section of imperatives that urge us to “fear the Lord”; to bask in the wonder and awe of Him, our creator, the perfection of all that is good. David confidently tells us to try the Lord out. Taste *and* see. Look at where God is present and at work in all circumstances. Let’s be honest, sometimes it is hard to find, but allow God to reveal Himself. Where and through whom is He working to give peace to the hurting? Providing healing? Comfort? Protection? The more we see God through spiritual eyes, the greater our confidence and trust in His goodness grows.

For the Children of Morningstar, how can you be the hands and feet of Christ to demonstrate what God’s goodness looks like in action? Imagine what joy will be theirs when they “taste and see that the Lord is good.” All the time. So much better than chocolate!

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

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Contributor

Vic and Marianna Voiselle, Statesboro, Georgia, are Mom and Dad to three precious adult daughters who now eat vegetables on a regular basis without bribery. Marianna has been an educator for her adult working life and Vic is a Pharmacist. Marianna’s Mother, Nancy Alford, was an avid educator as well, and she was a Resident at The Lodge at Bethany for several years prior to her death, and supported the Children of Morningstar as well. They both love children and look forward to being the hands and feet of Jesus to the Children of Morningstar during this Lenten Journey and beyond.

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