

Christmas Shopping!

God's Way!

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You know, I went shopping with Jesus; just the other day. Funny, we've been shopping before; I need Him to have **'His say'**. So, I'm chatting away with my Saviour, as we head off to 'The Banks'- And WOW! After withdrawing, I've given Him quiet **'Thanks'**.



'Thank's...For what? Do I hear you say? Why, 'Thanks for the MONEY with which to PAY'!!

So far this bit's fairly routine, between my Lord and I. But today, there comes a definite change, as I prepare to buy. I've taken up a

trolley, and, chatting all the while, with list in hand, my Lord and I, step into centre aisle. Then - **'My ~Eyes ~Do ~Bulge, ~My ~Jaw ~Juts ~Out, ~And ~Away ~My ~Brain ~Does ~Whirl'**; And much of me somehow becomes, this... 'Good-bye, Christ-like Girl!'



I... **'Charge ~Across ~This ~Aisle ~I'm ~In, ~From ~Left ~To ~Right ~I Go, ~Shovelling ~SPECIALS ~Off ~The ~Shelf, ~No ~Time ~For ~Me ~To ~Slow!'**

The trolley builds with odds and ends, some needed - MANY NOT...!! I've shoved and skidded; Snarled and sch-niffed; this store seems awfully hot!! Then, self-righteously triumphant, I head off to checkout point; still holding forth **MY** Right-of-Way, t'wards others in this 'joint'.



(But the checkout point..... **DOES slow ME!** Sometimes it comes to a stop. And that is when I realise, just what I have - **IN STOCK.**)





And that is also when I hear – whispered lovingly low... **“Hey, Child-of-Mine, remember? ...You do reap what you sow!”**



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Boy! Who the ‘heck’s’... said that to ME!? I glanced around the store. But, nobody looks me in the eyes; though a few could’ve happily ‘swore’.

“Hey, Child-of Mine, I’m here with you. Remember? You brought me along.”
“We started out with the ‘same beat’; But now, we’ve parted song.”
“What happened inside of you, today, Child-of-Mine – I ask?”
“How come the pleasant beginning, became such a tear-about task?”



Yep, I’d forgotten my – Way-to-Shop ‘best guide’, was still tagging along. And ...Yep, when I ‘really looked’ I could see – we each – had a different song. Mine was going – ‘Me-Me-Me-Me, Me-Me-Me-Me, beep-beep’; ... while His was going ... ‘S-L-O-W down my Child; S-L-O-W down, or you’ll surely weep’. Weep about what?



Do I hear you say? Well, I had – NOT ENOUGH CASH – with which to pay ...??

(See, I’d started out with list in hand and my ‘special guide’ with ME, but today I’d let my guard down, which ‘Old Nick’ did gleefully see.)



Still, I tried SO HARD to justify, MY loaded shopping cart, while all the while; my Lord stood by and focussed on my heart. I bluffed. I blustered. Groaned and moaned. I pouted and I cried. I tried to blame – **“I’m human – that’s what I am inside!”**

And all throughout this struggle I was inching closer to

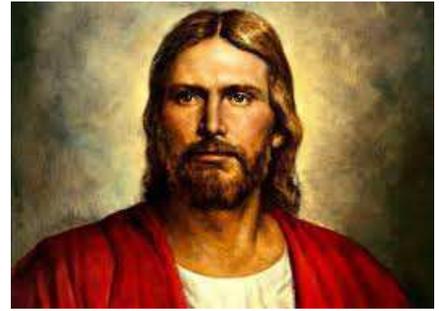


had

Might
blame it – TOO!

‘THAT’
CHECKOUT
POINT, which
caused my stop;

as well now,



And something I'd been noticing – but NO WAY was I asking WHY?! Was - how quietly, and with a saddened look, my Lord, was still standing by. And HIS focus was NEVER distracted, as mine had been, today. And, His manner still plainly spoke to me – “I Love You – All The Way!”

Now, believe me, ‘Humble Pie’ has a bitter taste, you bet. But - bitter or not, this ‘pride-filled ME’ wasn’t ready to give up yet. Man, talk about embarrassing, there’s NO WAY I’ll be ‘fessing up’. It’s NOT MY fault, I stubbornly thought, PRIDE continued to fill my cup.

“Come on, Lord. What’s the stew?”



big deal? Why put me in this

“I didn’t,” He said. “But I’m sure if you look – the cause will be there, in YOU.”

Well, I pulled out of the line-up, and pushed my loaded cart; just a little out of the way - while I had me some ‘heart-to-heart’. And what I found, I didn’t like, but ...



I KNEW - what I had to DO!

First, though, I sought my Saviour out; for - How else, was I gunna get through?





Then off down the aisle again I went, keeping focus all on 'my guide'. THIS TIME – I KNEW – my Lord would be – joy-filled – for His Christ-like Bride.

Now, back to the checkout point – BEHOLD – there's nobody else in sight. Goods through; Paid up, and - Out the door, with 'my future' still looking bright.



*Looking bright? Do I hear you say?
Yep – I was saved again today!*



“You have just enough left for a cuppa. Try that café, just near that sign.”

And I bow my head, and silently ...we join the cuppa-line. And whilst I'm standing, waiting, I reflect on my earlier – ME; and I feel so very thankful, that, only the Lord did see.

(For it's something I don't want to share... It need not be made known.)



So, I'm standing, congratulating myself – near back, on my 'pride-filled throne'.

Again I hear my Saviour's voice –



Say – *“See that person over there?”*

“Believe Me, Child-of-Mine,” He says, “Today’s your day to share!”

“Remember; there’s always ‘pay-up-time’ ...and you do reap, what you sow. And it’s written quite plainly in My



Word; for it’s something ALL folk need KNOW.”



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Well, I cannot help but laugh out loud. Who cares if I start a rumour? For while my penalty I pay, its come, with - God’s sense of humour. God’s sense of humour? I hear you say?

Well, who else but God - could ‘FIX’ my day?!

Amen!!

References: -

(1Peter 3:13, 5:8; Proverbs 1:19, 23:21; Luke 18:11-12; Mark 7:22; Romans 8:37; 1Corinthians 15:57; Ephesians 3:17-19.)...all from Amplified Bible.

1Pe 3:13 Now who is there to hurt you if you are zealous followers of that which is good?

1Pe 5:8 Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour.

Pro 1:19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy of gain; such [greed for plunder] takes away the lives of its possessors.

Pro 23:21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty, and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

Luk 18:11 *The Pharisee took his stand ostentatiously and began to pray thus before and with himself: God, I thank You that I am not like the rest of men—extortioners (robbers), swindlers [unrighteous in heart and life], adulterers—or even like this tax collector here.*
Luk 18:12 *I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I gain.*



Mar 7:22 *Coveting (a greedy desire to have more wealth), dangerous and destructive wickedness, deceit; unrestrained (indecent) conduct; an evil eye (envy), slander (evil speaking, malicious misrepresentation, abusiveness), pride (the sin of an uplifted heart against God and man), foolishness (folly, lack of sense, recklessness, thoughtlessness).*

Rom 8:37 *Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us. Amen and Amen!*



1Co 15:57 *But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Eph 3:17 *May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love,*

Eph 3:18 *That you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints [God's devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the breadth and length and height and depth [of it];*

Eph 3:19 *[That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!*

Blessings of the Abundant Kind be yours this **Christmas Season!** Remember – **Jesus is the Reason for the Season!**

Amen!

