



Oh, the Things We Can Learn from a Child!

By Melodee Simmons, Preschool and Early Childhood Learning Representative

We can learn so much from the children we teach. As we observe their innocence and wonder at life, we can learn to look forward with anticipation to the good things we know are coming.

Today was our Valentine Party. The children had been making cards and decorations, and parents had signed up to bring red, white, and pink foods. The children arrived in special clothes, and there was excitement in the air. The children wanted to tell me about the food they brought and the cards they had selected for their friends.

Something to Make Us Excited

As I was thinking about their happiness and wanting to share the details of the coming event, an old hymn, "What a Day That Will Be," popped into my head.

What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see
When I look upon His face
The one who saved me by His grace
When He takes me by the hand
And leads me through the Promised Land
What a day, glorious day that will be.¹

¹ Jim Hill, "What a Day That Will Be," Hymnary.

https://hymnary.org/text/there_is_coming_a_day_when_no_heartaches

I thought about these young children who are so excited about something that will last about one hour. How excited are we about Jesus leading us to the Promised Land for eternity? We will live there with God our Father and His Son! We do not seem to get excited about that thought at all. The children were excited and wanted to tell me about what was going to happen. When was the last time we were so excited, telling everyone around us about meeting Jesus and what He had done for us? We should be shouting for joy!

Shouting and Praising

As a child and teen, I remember people shouting, walking up and down the church aisle, even waving their handkerchiefs, praising God for His blessings and His promises. This experience had made an impression on me—that of a happy Christian life. I do not see this anymore. I admit I do not express myself that way either. I stay quiet when I should be shouting and telling everyone of the wondrous future that is awaiting me.

Children do not have the inhibitions that adults do. They just express themselves without fear of what someone will think of them. What would our world be like if all Christians started expressing and sharing their joy to everyone?

This last year has been a hard one for all of us. Maybe we need to focus on Jesus and remember what He has in store for us in heaven like it says in this song:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.²*

Regardless of what this world brings to us, turn to Jesus and remember all the wonderful things our future holds.

If you would like to respond to this article, you may write to Melodee at melodee.simmons@yahoo.com.

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² Helen Howarth Lemmel, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" in *Worship in Song* (Lillenas Publishing Company, Kansas City, Missouri, 1972).