

Heart and Soul

The Grandmother

By

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Theme:

This monologue is the fifth in a series of five monologues which convey the different stresses that women of various ages experience throughout life. This monologue presents the viewpoint of an older woman, a grandmother, as she looks back on her long life. She stresses her frustration in not being able to fulfill the biblical role of being a source of wisdom and guidance in a culture that has left the elderly to die alone. Through her struggles she has learned to be content in all things. She has learned to be patient and willing to endure whatever the Lord has in store for her. She has come to realize that everything seems small when compared to what Christ did for us on the cross.

Biblical Reference:

2 Timothy 4:5

Keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Approximate Running Time:

10 minutes

Notes:

The actors in this series of monologues are wearing hats that signify the different stages of their lives. The grandmother is wearing an Easter bonnet.

Scene:

There is a stool at center stage. The grandmother enters, sits on the stool, and begins to tell her story.

I have to tell you, it's not easy being my age! You can't imagine the things a woman my age has to endure in this world today. It seems as if women my age have been forgotten in our culture. Often I feel as if no one understands me, or that no one cares about me. Often there isn't anyone to talk to. People leave me alone, they say they don't want to bother me, or they think that I'm too old to have any value because I'm so out of touch with popular culture. Sometimes I wish I could just change the things that are around me, or go back to a time when I was more appreciated, but that's impossible.

The Bible clearly states that it is the job of the elder women in a congregation to instruct the younger women in the congregation regarding the right way to raise children in the Lord, to encourage them regarding their marriage, and to pass on the wisdom they're accumulated over their lives on to the next generation. But, I've got to tell you, that the next generation doesn't care what I have to say. They think they know it all, and they don't want to hear what I have to say, but I see them struggle, I see their families struggle, I see them turn from the Lord, and I try to stop the fall, but they won't listen. They see it as me sticking my nose into their business.

Do you know how hard it is to sit quietly and watch a generation go the way that isn't the straight and narrow? Do you know how hard it is to see the morals that this nation was founded on be discarded for a self-indulging lifestyle? Do you know how it feels to be pushed aside and told that you're no longer relevant? I do. I feel it every day.

You know, when I was first starting my family things were a lot different. We weren't going this way and that. We sat down for dinner together and we spent the evening together, as a family. The family was the center of our lives and we didn't allow our kids to go far from center. We taught them about God, how to live for Him, how to please Him, how to serve Him, and we also taught them how to teach others about Him. I don't see that as much today. I don't see many young people growing to love and obey the Lord as the center of their lives. Believe me, I do my best to tell others of the things that I see, the way that it disobeys God's word, and what has to be done to put things back in order, but no one wants to listen to me.

It's hard to sit quietly and watch society crumble around me. I see the things I was taught to make a marriage and a family successful taken for granted in this culture. I watch families fall apart, knowing that it could have been avoided if they would have followed the prescription that God offers for a successful family. I could have given that advice to those involved, if they'd only asked for it. I tried to offer the advice, but I was told to mind my own business. I guess they expect us older people to sit quietly in the pew and stay out of their lives.

You see, I was taught to love and respect my husband until the day that one of us was taken to be with the Lord, and even after that. I was taught to put the needs of my family before the needs of my own. Divorces were rare in the days when I began raising a family. There wasn't a single divorce among my friends, and none of my children have gone through a divorce. The ways of the Lord teach us how to keep our families together, and those ways are being neglected.

I'm sorry. I don't mean to sit here and nag. This is something that's been on my heart for quite some time, and I believe that it's something that could be very helpful to our society. The Bible contains all we need to live a long, happy, satisfying life. If we focus our attention back on God, back on the Bible, back on our marriages, back on our families, we'll live a long, happy, satisfying life. We will have problems along the way, but we'll know that our faith is in the Lord. He promised to take care of us, and no matter what happens, He will.

I know that someday I may be in a nursing home. That seems to be the way things are going these days and I'm ready to accept that fate. When my mother became too old and sick to take care of herself we took her into our home and took care of her until she died. I'll understand if my daughter doesn't do that for me. I know that our culture is different, and we're looked upon as a burden at times. But I just hope that I don't get put into a nursing home and forgotten.


As I visit the nursing home here in town I see women and men who are in the home because they don't have anywhere else to go. They're not really sick; they're forgotten. They're not able to take care of themselves, but they're not sick, they can think, talk, and reason as well as any 50 year old. There is so much wisdom, so much experience, so much practical knowledge that is wasting away because they're deemed not relevant.

Oh dear, I've spent so much time telling you all of the grievances I've kept on my heart. Please don't think that I believe all is bad. The Bible tells us that God works all things together for His glory, and I believe that He is still in control of our society, even though we are turning away from Him. He can change this society of ours. He can move within His people, He has in the past, and He can do it again when and if He chooses to.

Just the other day a young lady came to me and asked me for some advice regarding her life. I stressed to her that Philippians 4:11 says that we are to be content in all things. We need to be patient and willing to endure all situations knowing that God has greater things planned for us. Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus endured the things He had to go through because he had the cross in sight. It doesn't matter what you're going through because everything seems small when you compare it to what Jesus did for us. If you keep that kind of perspective on life you'll live a long, happy, satisfying life. If you choose to live a life for yourself you will continue to search for that which can truly make you happy: a relationship with the Lord.

I don't know how these young people live their lives without the Lord. I don't know how I could have done it without Him and I don't know how I could do it without him today.

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