

A Message from Pastor Travis Dean

The other day I was going through the check-out line with my two children, Elijah and Abigail. While I was busy emptying the shopping cart, I heard Elijah say, "No, Abigail. No." His tone of voice didn't reveal any great anxiety, so I finished what I was doing before peering into the cab of the car-like shopping cart. To my surprise I found them sitting calmly, each with a candy bar in their hands. Elijah was casually holding his, while Abigail, who had already torn the wrapper off of hers, was taking her first bite. I responded quickly by rescuing the abducted candy bars. (Yes, I paid for the opened one). Now I knew why Elijah had given his earlier prohibition.

As I reflected more on this experience (this was a first for me), Abigail's consideration for her brother began to impress me. When I'm after something I really want, I usually don't think, "Oh, I wonder who else might want one of these." But as Abigail picked out her candy bar of choice, she thought of her brother and took an additional one for him.

Some might think of Abigail as an Eve giving the forbidden fruit to her husband, Adam. I prefer an alternate correlation and recall the new believers in Acts 2. Their experience is described in verses 44-46 as follows:

"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart."

Here is a true source of joy. These new believers discovered it thousands of years ago. Abigail has found it more recently. What is this source of joy? Sharing with others. According to Isaiah 58:7, 8, sharing your food with the hungry causes light "to break forth like the morning" and healing to "spring forth speedily". We are blessed according to the amount that we give away. Our joy is in proportion to our consideration of others. If you always seem to be coming up short, share what little you have with someone else. "It will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over." (Luke 6:38)