

RELIGION

Double Dutch Chocolate Chip Burnt Bunt Cake

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

At the end of the month of October, on the last Saturday in the month, our church held a 'Harvest Festival' for the children. The festival is held annually to detour the children from participating in Halloween celebrations, trick-or-treat and the like. For-in doing so, they are acknowledging and condoning the satanic activities that come with that particular holiday.

Anyway...Our church held a fun night which included games. One of the games was a cake-walk. In order for us to have a cake-walk, we had to solicit cakes from the congregation. Many persons signed-up. On that night there were so many cakes until that they crowded the banquet table.

This story is about one of those cakes. However, this particular cake did not make the table.

I was one of the persons who willingly volunteered to donate three homemade cakes. While I pondered on the how and the shape and flavor, I resolved that I would make three different cakes instead of three of the same kind.

I listed all of the ingredients, went to the store, came home and began baking. I mixed each ingredient carefully. I took special precautions to make sure that I did not leave out anything. I wanted each cake to be

special and delicious.

As I prepared these cakes, I realized that there was a message in what I was doing and the how it was being done.

One cake was a lemon flavored yellow bunt cake. The second cake was an all-white, fluffy, angel, banana flavored bunt cake. Last and far from being least was the "unresistable creation" of the double dutch chocolate chip bunt cake.

The house just oozed with the heavenly fragrances. I followed the same meticulous directions and care as I mixed each cake. First--the yellow, then the white and then the chocolate. Cakes one and two baked beautifully. I sat them on the wire rack to cool.

By this time, I was getting pretty tired. So--I mixed the last one and poured the chocolate cake batter into the bunt pan, added the chocolate chips (and raisins) and carefully placed the pan into the pre-heated oven. I set the timer; as before. I went into the TV room; as before. However--this time I laid my head on a pillow. Just until the timer went off. Well...

I had told myself to remain subconsciously aware of what I had done so that I could remember to hear the timer when it went off. Well...

All of a sudden, I smelled the cake. The smell was very strong, very chocolatee.

Big pause!
I jumped up! "Oh my goodness! My cake! My cake!"

As I reached the kitchen, my daughter-in-law stood watching me as I frantically, half asleep, rushed into the room exclaiming, "My cake! My CAKE!"

She said, "What cake? I thought you had finished all your baking last night."

"Last night?"
"Oh no! What time is it? Didn't anyone smell the cake and turn it off?" I clamored!

I couldn't believe that I had slept through the entire night and had forgotten all about the cake in the oven. This special cake. This delicious cake. This most favorite cake of the entire century which would appeal to any youthful palate, or adult's.

This cake that I had intended to cut in-half. Eat half and frost the other and send it to church. It was the most beautifully shaped, the most good smelling dried-out, burnt cake in the world. And by its being double dutch chocolate, you couldn't tell that it was burned. However, when you held it, touched it, tried to cut it, you would immediately discover that it was not fit for human consumption.

A big burnt biscuit award!

No! This was a sermon in a bunt pan.

I turned that cake around and around. I couldn't find one place to make a dent.

All those good ingredients. All gone to waste. Then--I thought, "This reminds me of some people. All the right ingredients and they're not good for nothing."

As parents, we do all that we can to nurture our children and put in all the right ingredients, like: a good education, love and caring, going to sorting events with them, taking them on outings, doing fun things with them, taking them to church and teaching them good, honest virtues; but, when they get of-age, they choose. They decide whether to come or to go. They decide whether or not they should stay in church or go out and get drunk or use drugs or steal or have babies out of wedlock. They decide. They choose.

All the ingredients for the makings of a "good", intelligent, honorable, saved person;.....but! Once they leave the family home, they choose.

"Will they remember what they have learned?" Will I be proud of my child? These questions linger in the minds of unsuspecting parents all the time. But--what kind of ingredients did you put in? What kind of care did

you give them?

Our children are mirror images of us.

Some parents put in good ingredients and then they go to sleep on the job. Ooops! Then--when the child is seen acting out of character, you want to know where did they get that from.

Sometimes a parent can get so busy doing civic things and good works; until they leave their children to finish raising themselves.

With hands flailing in the air, "Where did I go wrong?", a frantic mother wailed.

Just like those cakes. The first two were given the needed attention it took to turn-out a delicious, edible product. So it is also with a child. A parent must see a child through to his/her fruition.

If you don't take the time to watch the pot, someone else surely will. Or won't!

As parents, we must be the authority in our homes. Not the children or the legislature. We must not get too busy doing good things for other people while our own children are going down the proverbial drain. Always be available to listen to what your child has to say.

Sometimes what they say may sound harsh; but, listen.

Pain affects everyone differently. You may have more than

one child and each child reacts differently to the same stimuli whether it be negative or positive. And--whereas aspirin may help your headache, it won't help your sister's headache.

But--I have a remedy that will help everyone's ails. No matter who it is. No matter what race or creed. No matter what sex. No matter what denomination you may be in. That remedy is--JESUS!

With Jesus in our life and in your home, the lives of your children will avail much in the area of positive returns.

One of those good ingredients you put into your child should be spelled J-E-S-U-S. We make frail attempts to do good; but, unless we do what is good in the sight of God, our efforts are in vain.

Give JESUS to your child--full strength. Do not dilute! Once this ingredient has been digested, attitudes and lives are never the same. "O, Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalms 34:8)

This ingredient may be added at anytime of the day or night. This ingredient is available to all who want-a-taste.

Dare to be different! Try Jesus!

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Pastor, Rev. James C.E. Faulkner

Theme: Whatever your going to do for the Lord, do it now.

1 Peter 4:11

St. Mark Baptist Church

103 NE Morris St., Portland, OR 97212

- Sunday School - 9:30 am
- Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00 am
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- Prayer Meeting Wednesday - 7:00 pm

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