



What Leftovers Again?

by Jackie Abbott

When I was a kid, our family lived on a very tight budget. It was absolutely necessary that nothing went to waste. There were the hand-me-down clothes for my two brothers, hand-me-down clothes from friends for me. We bought clothes just a bit larger than necessary so that we could grow into them and wear them longer. And let out the hems on dresses until there was no hem left.

But one of those “penny-pinchers” that was as consistent as it could be was the leftover meals. My Mom was awesome! She could make a roast be a meal for three days. The first meal was the real deal...slices of roast with the potatoes and vegetables on the side. Yummy. The second day would be sliced roast again, but this time in a sandwich with chips on the side. The third day was the bit of roast chopped up in a stew with whatever vegetables were left over. Usually, there were more vegetables than roast in that stew.

We never complained and always enjoyed our mealtime, even when leftovers were on our plates. The food filled us up and kept us healthy. But I think that what really made the difference was the family connection. We talked and laughed together... in so much joy. (There was no TV to distract us.) And we all got to tell our “story” and listened with open ears to everyone else's.

This got me to thinking...(scary, huh?)

I wonder if I sometimes give God “leftovers”? Is my prayer time spent in that leftover “third day” stage? I've already mentioned that I can be distracted at times... and I bet that's another sign of “leftovers”. Do I sometimes fret about undone chores when I could be in prayer with my God? Maybe I need to remember that the dust from yesterday could always wait until tomorrow. It's not going anywhere. While the dust is waiting, I could be waiting for that comforting feeling that comes when I feel that God is really watching over me. I know and am absolutely certain that He is with me or I wouldn't be putting these words on paper right now.

I can be reading peacefully, and suddenly a phrase or a word (like leftovers) starts spinning around in my head, and I feel moved to work with it, think about it, write it down for that time when I need it. Yes, that's God working on me....

You know, we can get so caught up in our daily activities that we fail to remember the One who has blessed us with life, friendship, family.

And remember the talents that He blessed us with....there are so many varieties and they all need to be used. Everyone has one, or more probably. Are you using yours?

Put it to work with God's blessing.... don't let it be a “leftover”.