

JULIE'S STORY-GLIMPSES OF GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Partners in Crime

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Proverbs 1:8-10
Proverbs 13:20
Psalm 1



PARTNERS IN CRIME

Becky and Vicky Palmer were the playmates from hell. Oh yes, there were from a sanctimonious church-going family, but suffice it to say my parents were sure they were the spawn of Satan. My sister Kathy and I got into so much trouble when the Palmer kids came to visit that Daddy spanked us both before they arrived as a precautionary measure. That was an exercise in futility.

When we four little instigators entered a room, the mischief factor increased exponentially. We always blamed the disasters on Becky, the oldest Palmer. She was the master-mind. Vicky, her little sister was the snitch. And, of course, my sister and I were blameless, without fault.

But the malevolent motives of evil companions, like chicken pox, are always contagious. If you listen long enough to fools and tricksters, catastrophe follows. The four of us attended Sunday school together that very morning. How degenerate could we become between lunch and dinner?

Our parents instructed us to play quietly in our room. Becky showed us how to crawl out of the bedroom window. In addition to blatant disobedience of our parent's orders, we lost all sense of kindness and good sportsmanship. I'd scream if I lost at Monopoly. My parents then sent me to "jail, directly to jail, do not pass go, do not collect two hundred dollars."

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,
Give me the discernment to choose my friends wisely. Help me listen to the counsel of godly people. Help me to honor my parents.
In Jesus' Name,
Amen

Like clockwork, World War Three would break out in our room. Bedlam, destruction and devastation ensued. The once charming cotton-candy pink bedroom looked like a war zone. Our parents pulled us apart, marched us home, and grounded us for life. Three days later, my sister and I pleaded for Becky and Vicky to return.

What changed when we were with our “partners in crime?” We became surly and rebellious. We believed Mom and Dad had devolved into idiots. We obviously knew better. The big sisters (Becky and I) would belittle the little sisters (Kathy and Vicky). Our little sisters would, in turn, become selfish and belligerent.

Nobody shared. Barbie got her head shaved and Midge, her plastic buddy, ran around naked. Magic marker found its way onto white socks and sheets. Books were thrown, juice was spilt, toys were strewn, and tattles-tailed. Havoc reigned.

How could four little tykes become so caustic around one another?

I’m not sure, but King Solomon knew when he wrote Proverbs 1:8-10:

“Pay close attention, friend, to what your father tells you. Never forget what you learned at your mother's knee. Wear their counsel like flowers in your hair, like rings on your fingers. Dear friend, if bad companions tempt you, don't go along with them.” NLV

Enough said.

“Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.” Proverbs 13:20 NLV

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. Psalms 1:1-2

- King Solomon discusses several insights in Proverbs 1 concerning the value of honoring your parents. How is their counsel described? Why do you think their advice is like a “beautiful adornment”? What would that look like in your life?
- Have you ever been influenced to do foolish things by your peers? What were the results? Did you have any indication beforehand that they were not a good influence on you? How do you choose your friends?
- King David writes in Psalm one that the “blessed” man, the “happy” man does certain things. What are the things he chooses not to do? What are the positive things that he chooses to do?
- Take some time this week to meditate upon Psalms chapter one. Write out the verses and place the card in a location that you will see throughout the day. Visualize yourself as the “tree by the stream” that God waters. Ask Him to deepen your roots in the faith.