

The Faith of Dolly Parton

There was a good show to watch on television last week. That in itself is news!

NBC released Dolly Parton's *Coat of Many Colors* last Thursday and delivered an audience of over 13 million viewers. It was the most watched film on broadcast television in almost five years. The movie is the first in a series of movies based on Dolly's songs.

Alyvia Alyn Lind was cast as the young, 9-year-old ball of fire, Dolly. We watched a 2015 rendition of *Little House on the Prairie* and cheered for the squirt as she fought, spat, kicked and sang her way through her struggles. She connected.

This movie brought a discussion of faith and family values back into the living rooms of a hurting America. We are desperate for an end to killings and the bad news that flows like a flooded river from our television sets.

To step back into a simpler time and place was therapeutic and encouraging.

The movie spoke often of faith. The message was soft but clearly spoken. I thought about it as a morning devotional. It reminded me of how I want to represent my faith to others. Dolly as a 9-year-old was already a leader in her family and in the classroom. She took stands even if it meant a trip to the woodshed with her father. She was a model of love and acceptance.

The faith of a leader is shown as much by what we won't do as it shows in what we will do.

We need more faith-based movies. More *War Rooms* and movies like *God's Not Dead*. The large viewing audience made it clear that we want Christian values in our homes.

The *Coat of Many Colors* is a welcome nudge into the reason for the season.

Today's Scripture

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb 11:1).

Platform Tip No. 28

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