

Peanuts

Peanuts. It is amazing that I still love them after all the drama they caused me as a very young boy.

My mom kept a very large can of them in the cabinet. She kept a container the size of a tub of coffee, or an old "Crisco" can shut up tight with a plastic lid.

It is funny how certain events that happened even when we were very young are forever burned into our memories. This is one such

incident. One night I was watching TV and had one of those "I need a

snack" thoughts. I quietly went into the kitchen, climbed up in a chair

where I could just reach the elusive peanut can. I got it down. It

was very heavy ... a good sign ... it meant LOTS of peanuts to enjoy as I watched

"Lassie." I carried the can into

the TV room and proceeded to climb up into my mom's *favorite* overstuffed chair.

By all outward appearances, this was shaping up to be a great night. When I tried to get the lid off of the peanut can I noticed

that it was very tight. I turned the can slightly on its side to get

better leverage. POP. The lid came off. *Instant tragedy!*

Used fried chicken oil spilled all over and

worse, all over my mom's special chair. My mom had used an empty peanut

can to save her fried chicken oil to use again.

And then an even worse situation began to unfold. I

heard my mom coming down the hall calling my name (I think I

knew how Adam
felt). Two random thoughts went through my tiny brain.
First, WHY
is there nasty used chicken oil in the peanut can? The label
says
peanuts.

There is even a picture of peanuts on the outside. Why does
the inside
contain something different than what is displayed on the
outside?

The second thought that shot through my mind was, *Run
Leonard, RUN!*

And I did. I ran right to the front door where I quickly
noticed that it
was dark outside. I could face the darkness or face my mom.
In
looking back, the darkness may have been
a better choice.

Jesus said, "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills
the heart" (See Matt. 12:34). And then later He declares to
the very religious
people of His day that they were "like whitewashed tombs which
on the *outside* appear beautiful, but *inside* are full of dead
men's bones and all uncleanness"
(See Matt. 23:27).

Wow! That had to sting. They took pride in their
religious perfection, but Jesus destroyed that theory. "You
can't judge a
book by its cover" took on a whole new meaning.

Not only did Jesus say that they were full of rotten,
stinking bones, but that you could tell what was in their
hearts when they
opened their mouths. In other
words, when the "lid" popped off, when they were jostled, when

the “peanut can”
tipped over what was really on the inside came out. The
outside could be
made to look good for people to see. But if you upset them,
what was
really on the inside was sure to spill out.

If you are “jostled” in life, what pours out? When
your “peanut” can is tipped over, do peanuts spill out? Be
honest with
yourself. What are you full of? To a great degree, that is
determined by what you are putting *into* your
life.

If you are putting garbage into your life (what you watch,
what you read, what
you listen to) and then “life” tips you over, chances are that
garbage will be
dumped out.

This week in your Christ Walk journey, make it a daily event
to do some self-examination. Don’t be nearly as worried about
what people
see on the outside, as you are about what God sees on the
inside. If you tip a
jar over that is full of muddy water, honey will *not* spill
out. Do not despair though!

Here’s the beauty of being a child of the King of
Kings. He can turn your garbage, your muddy water, into pure
honey or
sweet pure water. But be honest with Him. Be sincere. Hand
Him
the junk. Get rid of the garbage. Ask Him to change you. He
will give you back grace and mercy.

PRAYER POWER WEEK OF 7/25/2011

This week ask God to

help you examine what you are putting into your life and purge all that is not godly out. Empty yourself of what is not of God (1 John 2:16) and fill your life with what is (Phil 4:8-9). Ask Him to renew your mind by the Word so that it propels you into godly behavior patterns that exhibit a pure heart. Continue to pray that God would send laborers into His harvest fields, bring revival to our churches around the world, expand His kingdom and hasten the Lord's return. Continue to pray that President Obama and those working with him would seek God for solutions to the crises we are currently facing. Remember to lift up Israel and those serving in the military. 1 John 2:16, Phil. 4:8-9; Matt. 12:34-35

To enrich your prayer life and learn how to strategically pray with power by using appropriate scriptures, we recommend the following sources by Apostle John Eckhardt: Prayers that Rout Demons, Prayers that Bring Healing, Prayers that Release Heaven on Earth and Prayers that Break Curses. To order any or all of these [click here](#).