

BAPTIST FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S PAGE
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DANNY'S DOLLAR By Elsie Grant Henson

Seven-year-old Danny frowned as he slipped the green dollar bill back into his pocket-book. It was a Christmas gift from his grandfather. Danny meant to spend every penny for himself.

But this morning as Danny dressed for Sunday school his mother had said:

"Danny, you know ten cents of your dollar belongs to God. You should at least give him what is already his."

Now with a sigh Danny slipped his dollar back into his pocketbook. He wanted the money all for himself.

Downstairs as he was leaving for Sunday school his mother asked:

"Have you any money for the offering?"

"No," Danny shook his head.

"Here's a dime," said Mother, handing it to him. Danny did not look at her when he put the money into his coat pocket.

The day was cold as he went down the street. That dime in his pocket made him feel unhappy. But he forgot to be sad when he was inside the cheerful Sunday school room.

Danny liked the stories Miss Landon, his teacher, told from the Bible. This morning it was about a poor woman who gave a mite to the Lord. Miss Landon explained that a mite was not as much as a penny. But Jesus liked the woman's gift because she had given all she had. Danny squirmed in his seat for the story made him remember his dollar.

Usually the boys made scrapbooks after the Bible story was finished. The books were to be sent to children overseas, so that they could learn about Jesus, too.

But this morning Miss Landon told the class about the Gordons.

"I'm sorry to tell you but their house burned last night," she said. "Nothing was saved but the clothes they wore. Jack was in our class, remember? Until he moved too far away to come. Could we do something to help him?"

"If we got two Christmas presents alike, why not give Jack one of them?" said one boy.

"Give him some of our clothes that we've outgrown," suggested another.

"The Junior boys are providing the clothes," said Miss Landon. "The men of our church are going to rebuild the Gordon house, and the women's class will furnish it. How would you like to give Jack a health kit? A toothbrush, a comb, washcloths, towels, and handkerchiefs."

"Fine," the boys chorused.

"I'll take you out to see Jack this afternoon, if your gifts are ready," said Miss Landon. "We'll find the Gordon family in a garage."

Danny's gift was a toothbrush, an extra one he got for Christmas. He felt pretty good until he thought of his dollar. His mother had said ten cents of it belonged to God. Didn't a toothbrush cost more than a dime?

When Danny saw where Jack lived, he felt sorry that he had to live in a garage. Jack had no bed, only a cot. But he smiled and told each boy thank you for the gift he brought.

On the way home Miss Landon said:

"Jack needs more than we took him today. Here's a little wooden barrel," she added, taking it from her purse. "How would you like to put a dime or even a quarter into the slit at the top of it? When there's enough money we might get Jack something else he needs."

At home Danny went upstairs to his room. Plenty of clothes hung in his closet. Shoes without a single hole were in a row on the floor. His electric train was in a box beside his erector set. What if all this had burned? Not a single thing left but the clothes he wore? How awful it would be to live in a garage!

Danny went to his desk and took out his pocketbook. With it he ran downstairs.

"Mother, will you change my dollar into quarters and dimes?" he asked her.

"Why, yes," she said in surprise. "Here are three quarters, two dimes, and a nickel."

"I'll put this into a little wooden barrel for Jack Gordon." Danny held up a quarter for his mother to see.

"Fine," said Mother.

"Next Sunday this dime will go to the Sunday school," Danny held it up too.

"Why, Danny, I'm proud of you," Mother smiled.

How good he felt inside. At first he had not wanted to give one cent of his dollar away. But now it was different. Sharing with Jack and the Sunday school was fun. It made him feel good inside.

"I still have two quarters, one dime, and a nickel to spend," Danny said holding them up.

His mother looked so pleased that Danny knew she was as happy as he about what he was doing with his dollar.

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