

jun 23

donuts (part 2)

we pick up our story again where jason has just attempted to enter the room and wasn't greeted very friendly. here we go.

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steve picked up his head and said, "no, let him come."

professor christianson said, "you realize that if jason comes in you will have to do ten pushups for him?"

steve said, "yes, let him come in. give him a donut."

dr. christianson said, "okay, steve, i'll let you get jason's out of the way right now.

jason, do you want a donut?" jason, new to the room hardly knew what was going on.

"yes," he said, "give me a donut."

"steve, will you do ten pushups so that jason can have a donut?" steve did ten pushups very slowly and with great effort. jason, bewildered, was handed a donut and sat down.

dr. christianson finished the fourth row then started on those visitors seated by the heaters. steve's arms were now shaking with each pushup in a struggle to lift himself against the force of gravity. sweat was

profusely dropping off of his face and, by this time, there was no sound except his heavy breathing. there was not a dry eye in the room.

the very last two students in the room were two young women, both cheerleaders, and very popular. dr. christianson went to linda, the second to last, and asked, "linda, do you want a doughnut?"

linda said, very sadly, "no, thank you."

professor christianson quietly asked, "steve, would you do ten pushups so that linda can have a donut she doesn't want?" grunting from the effort, steve did ten very slow pushups for linda.

then dr. christianson turned to the last girl, susan. "susan, do you want a donut?" susan, with tears flowing down her face, began to cry. "dr. christianson, why can't i help him?"

dr. christianson, with tears of his own, said, "no, steve has to do it alone. i have given him this task and he is in charge of seeing that everyone has an opportunity for a donut whether they want it or not.

when i decided to have a party this last day of class, i looked at my grade book. steve is the only student with a perfect grade. Everyone else has failed a test, skipped class, or offered me inferior work.

steve told me that when a player messes up in football practice, he must do pushups. i told steve that none of you could come to my party unless he paid the price

by doing your pushups. he and i made a deal for your sakes.

steve, would you do ten pushups so susan can have a donut?" as steve very slowly finished his last pushup, with the understanding that he had accomplished all that was required of him, having done 350 pushups, his arms buckled beneath him and he fell to the floor.

dr. christianson turned to the room and said. "and so it was, that our savior, Jesus Christ, on the cross, pled to the Father, 'into thy hands I commend my spirit.' with the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, he yielded up His life. and like some of those in this room, many of us leave the gift on the desk, uneaten."

two students helped steve up off the floor and to a seat, physically exhausted, but wearing a thin smile. "Well done, good and faithful servant," said the professor, adding, "not all sermons are preached in words."

turning to his class the professor said, "my wish is that you might understand and fully comprehend all the riches of grace and mercy that have been given to you through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for us all, now and forever. whether or not we choose to accept His gift to us, the price has been paid. wouldn't you be foolish and ungrateful to leave it laying on the desk?"

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and so goes the parable of the donuts. Jesus taught in parables. parables were a common form of teaching in judaism. the Lord Jesus frequently used parables as a means of illustrating profound, divine truths. stories such as these are easily remembered, the characters bold, and the symbolism rich in meaning.

as professor christianson said, "this is my classroom, my class, my desks, and these are my donuts." well, it is God's universe, His earth, His creation made from dust and His mercy to bestow. it is all His and He makes the rules.

the Lord has made it perfectly clear. eternal salvation is faith in Him alone and not through any human effort or our own good works or intentions. there are a lot of big questions that come our way in life. but there is only one big question in death. "I am the resurrection and the life. he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live ... do you believe this?" john 11:25-26

you see, professor christianson weighed the whole situation and determined that steve was the only one qualified to earn the donuts. for everyone to be able to receive a donut, steve must pay the price. so he paid the price for the donuts. whether you decide to receive one or not is up to you. "we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." acts 14:22 but those tribulations are nothing compared to the weight of sin we could not bare. and yes, there will be tribulations no matter which realm you enter.

professor christianson was celebrating the last day of

his class. God will be celebrating the last day of our learning here on this earth. His celebration will be the marriage supper of the lamb, His Son; something far greater than donuts. it's value is beyond measure. and yet we still leave it sitting on the desk. God wants everyone to have their donut. He wants you to take a big bite and enjoy it all the way down. down to that wellspring of life bubbling up in us. so if you're stomach is beginning to growl within you, take a bite. it's paid for.