

Lesson 15

January 26, 2011

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| I. | Devoted | Ezra 7:1 – 6, 10 |
| II. | Dispatched | Ezra 7:7 – 26 |
| III. | Delighted | Ezra 7:27– 28 |

Truth #1: When the hand of God hems me in, I have an opportunity to draw closer to Him and grow in my devotion.

Truth #2: When God hands me a work to do, He will lavishly supply my needs in the most unimaginable ways.

Truth #3: Because the hand of God is on me, I can't help but delight in Him.

Notes:

*When you find yourself in a place you never thought you'd be,
God may be equipping you for a work greater than you ever thought you'd do.*

The Touch of the Master's Hand

by Myra Brooks Welch

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.

"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?
A dollar, a dollar, then, two! Only two?
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

Three dollars once; three dollars twice;
Going for three . . ." But no,
From the room far back, a grey-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow.

Then wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening up the loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As sweet as an angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low, said:
"What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.

"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?
"Two thousand! who'll make it three?
"Three thousand once; three thousand twice;
And going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand,
What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply:
"The Touch Of The Master's Hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.

A 'mess of potage,' a glass of wine;
A game - and he travels on.
He is 'going' once, and 'going' twice,
He's 'going' and almost 'gone'.

But the Master comes and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's Hand.

*When you find yourself in a place you never thought you'd be,
God may be equipping you for a work greater than you ever thought you'd do.*