

"No, please don't. You'll be sorry if you go so far as to be late for breakfast. You know papa doesn't like us to be late."

"I'll be back directly," said Ethel. And in a moment she was running down the steps and out into the clear, fresh, morning air. It was a regular feast morning, with not a sign of fog or rain. Ethel sniffed in the rose-scented air delightedly and held fast to the shilling in her pocket with one hand as she went down the drive to the hedge with a hop, skip and jump.

"Florrie's always so afraid of doing wrong," she muttered to herself, "or she might have had this lovely little walk, just as well as I."

But Ethel, like many little people, had not reckoned upon the amount of strength it takes to withstand temptation; if she had, doubtless she would not have ventured to the hedge that morning. When she arrived there, already the musicians in the fair-ground had begun to tune up for the day, and the music seemed both inspiring and inviting to Ethel; so much so, in fact, that she decided to get on the other side of the hedge, the better to hear it. Having placed herself there, she next decided that it would take but a moment to run across the field and have just a peep into the fair-ground and a moment to run back, and she would still be in time for breakfast. The run across the field was safely accomplished—that is, if one did not take into calculation the fact of wet shoes and damp skirts from the long rain-laden grass which sparkled in the sun; Ethel did not take the time to go by the trodden foot-path—and the run back might have been accomplished as successfully, had she remembered to keep tight hold of the shilling. But, in the delight of seeing the fair-ground so close, she forgot to keep the shilling in her hand, and as she made the journey back she lost it among the grass. It was not until she reached the hedge again that Ethel discovered her loss; then it was a question whether she should be late to breakfast and grieve her father by staying to hunt for the shilling, or keep on her way home and look for the lost coin afterwards. She finally chose the latter; and hurrying up the drive, arrived in the dining-room just in time for breakfast.

But that stolen peep at the fair-ground cost Ethel far more than she could ever have thought possible. In the first place, sitting through the breakfast with wet shoes and stockings and damp skirts gave her cold; then the combined efforts of Miss Morris, Florrie and Jane failed to bring to light the lost shilling—it was indeed lost. And although Ethel went to the feast with the rest, yet she could not help wishing very sincerely that she had not taken that run across the field in the morning. But the keenest pang of all was having to confess to her mother upon the latter's arrival at home, that she had not been as good as she might have been.

"When the next feast-time comes, mamma, I will remember to do just as you say, even if you are away," said Ethel, after she had confessed and been forgiven; "but I thought it couldn't do much harm to take just one peep."

"I want my daughter to remember to do as mothersays, not only at feast-time, but at every other time," said Mrs. Swift. "And, Ethel, if you think there is a little harm in anything that you want to do, don't do it. Be sure that there is no harm in it before you

No! No! No!

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attempt doing that which you wish. Remember that, dear."

"Yes, mamma, I will."
When the next feast-time came, Ethel was able to go with a clear conscience and a happy heart, for there had been no stolen peep taken early in the morning.

In the Discouraged Days.

We have all our discouraged days, when things do not go well. The young people fail in their lessons at school, although they have studied hard and really done their best. The mothers are tried in their household work. The children are hard to control. It

has seemed impossible to keep good temper, to maintain that sweetness and lovingness which are so essential to a happy day. Try as they will to be gentle, kindly, patient, their minds are ruffled. They come to the close of the long, unhappy hours disturbed, defeated, discouraged. They have done their best, but they feel that they have really failed. They fall upon their knees with only tears for a prayer. But if they will lift up their eyes, they will see in every day's life the form of One whose presence will give them strength and confidence, and who will help them to victory. Before His sweet smile the shadows flee away; at His word new strength is given, and after that, work is easy, and all goes well again.

"Didn't Peak in That Way."

A baker who was a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, was one day hurrying along with a tray on his arms, when just as he passed through a side door he accidentally ran against his little child of about three years of age. Startled and irritated at the moment by the idea that he had hurt some one, he shouted in a loud voice, "Get out of the way!" and passed on.

More frightened at the father's stentorian shout than by the trifling accident, the child went whimpering down the yard, and meeting her aunt, was asked if she was hurt. "Ess," replied the little creature. "But Jesus didn't 'peak in dat way to 'ittle child'en; He took 'em up in His arms, He did."

A little child can sometimes teach a lesson which many grown people would do well to ponder.

—:- JAMES PAPE —:-

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