

A TIME FOR BAKING

December 15

Rachelle Kerber

My Grandma Burnstad was a woman who I adored, and I enjoyed any time that I got to spend with her. I was probably about 15 years old, the day I sat in her kitchen and watched her pull muffins from the oven. Without realizing she was teaching me, she stated (almost to herself), “ya’ know, it’s funny how so often when I bake something, I end up thinking about people who I know, who could use some encouragement...and then I end up giving a bunch away.”

If you know me at all, you will know that I love to bake, and to this day it is not uncommon that I pull something from the oven, think of Grandma’s words...and then joyfully deliver something warm and fresh to someone who I know. For me, it’s a tangible way to love people.

Please read Romans 12:9-13

In Romans 12:9-13 we read, “Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them...love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically...when God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.”

I believe that we are living in a very lonely world. And a global pandemic has only intensified this problem. It’s easy to get caught up in and busy with our own lives, but God calls us to live outside of ourselves. He has called us to kindness, both to the people who are easy to love, and also to those who aren’t. In this season of Advent, I think we all need to ask ourselves, “what can I do to reach out to those around me?” Or “how can I tangibly touch the life of someone in need?”

Baking might not be your thing, but maybe you have a different gift to offer someone. Maybe it’s the gift of your time, like over a phone call or a socially distanced coffee date. Maybe you fix things, or you’re good with technology, or you can shovel a walk. It doesn’t matter what it is. But do it. Reach out and show someone you care. The crazy part is that it will end up blessing you as well, sometimes as much it blesses them. Kind of neat how God makes it that way.

The other cool thing is that you won’t know who’s watching. My Grandma wasn’t trying to teach me a lesson, she was just being who she was... and many years after her passing, the influence that she had on me continues to make an impact on the lives of others.

Please join me in this prayer today:

Dear God, give me eyes to see the hurting, the lonely and the struggling. Fill my heart with love and grant me the vision to see people how You see them. Help me to use my gifts to reach out and impact the world around me. That through me, they may ultimately see a reflection of You. Amen.