

The Crystal Vase-

Cylinda Nickel

CRASH! The sound of shattering glass echoed through the house. Both Zachary and his mom ran into the kitchen. "Oh, Emma, you didn't!" Mother exclaimed when they saw the little girl looking in dismay at pieces of a crystal lamp scattered all over the floor. "I told you not to touch that! You've broken my new lamp!"

"I didn't mean to," Emma sobbed. "I just wanted to hold it in my hands, and it slipped away from me."

Mother nodded. "I see that," she said. "Right now I want you to go wait in your room before you get cut on this glass. I'll be there to talk to you in a minute, but first I need to get this picked up. Zachary, would you get out the vacuum for me, please?"

As they worked, Zachary shook his head. "Emma should have known better than to pick up the lamp," he said. "But since she did pick it up, she should have hung on tight!"

"That's true," agreed Mother. She looked thoughtful. "I can't help but think of something else that we all are holding in our hands -- something people often let slip away," she added. Zachary looked at his empty hands questioning. "Our souls are in our hands," continued Mother. "The soul is the most valuable thing we possess, yet people play with it so carelessly. Many are like the rich fool Jesus talked about -- interested only in having enough to eat, having a good time, and being popular. Remember, Son, you need to handle your soul with care."

What about you?

Are you being careless with your soul? It's that special something inside your body that will live forever. It's worth more than the whole world! The Psalmist says, "My soul is continually in my hand. . . ." (Psalm 119:109) Have you followed God's plan and repented of your sins, been baptized in Jesus Name and filled with the Holy Ghost?

Mark 8:36

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul.