

You Can Find Gold Everywhere

True Story by Ron Willis

When I was growing up in a small town in Western Tennessee, you never heard of crime. Everyone left their doors unlocked, keys were left in cars, and everyone worked hard for a living.

My mother would let my brother, age five and me, age eleven, go to the Saturday morning movies, and then walk down to the five and ten cent store by ourselves. We would buy a sandwich and a toy and then be picked up later that afternoon.

You can understand that this was a very small town of which everyone knew everyone. As it was the whole town was hit with a big surprise one evening.

Apparently, two men decided to rob the jewelry store and then set fire to the shop. This store made up only a small section of a large block of several stores.

Even though the fire department and volunteers fought the fire for hours and hours, they could not save the stores. The whole block burned down to the ground. People came in from miles away to see the fire. When it was all over there was only a pile of old brick and rubble left.

After several days had passed, the two men were caught by the sheriff and the job of cleaning up was started. Big trucks were brought in with big loaders. They loaded the trucks up with everything that was not burned and was hauled down to a land fill.

Next to this land fill lived the poorest people in the town. They rented rat-infested homes where most people would not live. There was one family that had several children who played in the trash and debris all the time.

One day while the children were playing in the debris they found a large diamond. Then they found gold that had been melted down from the jewelry store fire. Then the word got out.

YOU CAN FIND GOLD EVERYWHERE!!

People were finding diamonds and gold everywhere at this land fill.

Next thing you know, everyone was out there looking for gold, fighting for their pile of the debris. You could see little old ladies who were usually prim and proper, now black with soot,

looking for gold. Neighbors turned against neighbors. The small town that I remember so well, changed forever that day. No one trusted anyone. People slept on their pile of dust.

The family with the children that found the treasure first, sold the gold and jewelry, and moved away to a small farm where they could live without the rats. Instead of being happy for the family that needed the money, the town tried to take the items away from them.

How could God fearing people turn into the people that they had become? What happened? Did the people thank God for this good fortune? Did they tithe ten percent as commanded by God? I guess, God only knows. What about us today? What have we become with the gifts God has provided?

I know that the break-in of the jewelry store and setting of the fire changed our little town that day, not only by the landscape, but in the hearts and minds of the people that resided there.

Oh yes, we lost the movie theater in the fire also!

True Story

If you have a story that needs to be told, write me!

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