

Good Gossip at the Backyard Table Sample Chapter

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Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelations 3:20 ESV

RECOGNIZED!

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The taste of the warm sausage biscuit and the coffee just the way she liked it soothed her morning hunger. Suddenly, she heard a voice.

“Hey, I know you! Weren’t you on that talent show?”

The woman looked up from her Bible into the face of a teenaged girl.

“You were on *The Voice*! I watched you with my mom! Can I sit here?”

Before the older woman could answer, the young girl plopped down, almost overturning the pineapple smoothie she was balancing on her tray.

“I love how you all had to sing to those music coaches on *The Voice*, while they had their backs turned to you. All they heard were your voices.”

The woman smiled ever so slightly and gazed off into a moment of reminiscence. She responded wistfully, “Yes I remember.”

She lingered in that moment of days gone by, and heard herself softly say, “Those coaches heard my voice and were moved so much they all turned around.”

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The young girl leaned in, attempting to hear the woman more clearly. Her clumsy, sudden movement brought the woman’s attention back to the present moment.

She added, “I was so happy to be chosen, to be a part of something that was so great and awesome. It was the beginning of a wonderful relationship with *The Voice*. And the hopes of becoming a winner. I’ll never forget how that moment felt. But that was almost ten years ago, young lady.”

“I know,” replied the young girl. I was about eight years old back then. We always watched *The Voice*. I’ve always wanted to be a singer, performing in the bright lights with people hearing my voice and loving it. There was a rumor going around back then that you got robbed by the producers. People were saying YOU should have been the winner.”

The woman grinned broadly at this and said, “Oh, but I did win!”

“How’s that?” asked the young girl, with a look of puzzlement in her eyes.

The woman placed her book marker in her Bible and closed it.

She looked intently at the young girl and said, “I don’t know what you know about the Lord but let me share something with you.”

The girl leaned in eager to know what the woman meant about being a winner.

The woman continued speaking, “Remembering *The Voice* always takes me back to how I was living my life then.

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I walked with my back to God's truth, and I walked in a truth of my own. But one day, sight unseen, I heard a voice that was so soft and yet so powerful. It moved me. And like those coaches, I just had to turn around to see who it was.

That was the day I faced the TRUTH.

That was the day I made a choice.

That was the day a relationship started.

That was the day I became a winner.

That was the day I heard the VOICE.”

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The Way I See It...

Have you ever wanted to be chosen for something you knew you were great at? Something that would put your name in lights and give you star power? But you weren’t picked. Your name wasn’t called while competing in life’s contests. If you’ve been in that position, then you know how it feels.

Sometimes things don’t seem fair. We don’t get the things and accolades we feel we should have gotten. We find ourselves reminiscing on what could have been if only we’d won and gotten our 15 minutes of fame. But when you compare 15 minutes of fame to an eternity of life in Christ, is there really any comparison or contest?

You might not be chosen, or hear your name called, by the world but when you are chosen by God, and hear your name called by the Good Shepherd, and answer the call, to come into His sheepfold, you are a WINNER indeed. It is in Christ Jesus that we have victory. In Christ Jesus, we WIN!

Have you heard the VOICE this day?

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GOOD GOSSIP!

John 10:26-27 NKJV

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Hebrews 3:7-8 NKJV

“Today, if you will hear His voice Do not harden your hearts...”

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Let's Pray

O Blessed Savior, help us to hear above all, Your Voice, as You call to those who know You for the pardoning of their sins. And for those who are yet to know you, yet to hear Your Voice. Let the sound of Your Voice be a sweet and irresistible sound that causes them to turn to you and respond with the words, “I yield, I yield. What must I do to be saved?”

We pray, In Jesus' name. Amen.

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