

Day

1

**Nine Pennies
or a Dime -
Are You Ready?**

Read- Matthew 25:1-13

Reflect- My brother Gary is a neat freak. His life motto is "A place for everything, and everything in its place." My life motto? "Everything has a place. But if you want to know where it is, ask Gary." If you could see my desk (emphasis on the word "could"), you would understand that I am a random access thinker. Papers are everywhere. I still have a can of Pledge furniture polish my wife bought me back in January - of 1993. Still full.

When Gary and I were kids living in downtown Kansas City, every so often the ice cream truck would come down our street. It would play a delightful tune that could be heard from blocks away, and you could tell it was getting closer as the music steadily got louder. My brother would run inside, get his money and be waiting for the ice cream truck when it pulled up in front of our house. But me? I would frantically search through my room trying to scrounge what money I could find. Of course, back then, one thin dime would do the trick. I had the ten cents, but it was hard to find amid the mess. Too many times Gary would come back in the house, slowly licking his Popsicle right in front of me while I stood there crying, with nine pennies in my hand. I got left out because I wasn't ready when the ice cream man showed up.

What about you? Will you be ready when Jesus shows up?

Respond - If God hasn't called you to go, He will soon. Even as you look through this brochure, His voice is getting louder and closer. Are you prepared when He opens the door for you to go? Do you have your passport? Do you have your shots? What are you waiting for? Soon He will say, "It is time."

Ten Testimonies

ten

Bart Millard - MercyMe

I first met Bart in Lakeland Florida where I was a guest speaker. I had been asked to speak at his church on Wednesday night where his assignment was to take me out to eat and get me to the airport. As we sat in Pizza Hut, I heard his heartbeat for ministry. Several months later we sent a four seat airplane to pick up Bart and another person to fly from mid Florida to Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Bart said that the pilot had to use a coat hanger to get the plane started, and by the time they landed the lights on the airplane had gone out. God was just beginning to train Bart in the exercise of his faith. I will never forget that day on top of a Swiss mountain as Bart led the worship. God touched him and he just stood alone, worshipping God. Bart has never been



the same. I bet even he couldn't imagine what God had planned for him as he came down off that mountain. Congratulations on your Dove Award for Song of the year!

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Ten days of taking your mind, heart and soul over the edge. Noah, Jonah, Paul all had one thing in common; God pushed them over the edge. Now it is your turn. In the next ten days He wants to stretch your faith and lead you over the edge...will you follow?

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