

# A Sacred Lesson

By Kendra Phillips

Like many people, Clarita and her husband Mark fell on hard times. He lost his job and had not been able to find another one despite his consistent efforts. They had to rely on Clarita's job as a waitress and their savings. After a long and tough year, the savings were gone. Clarita's salary, even with good tips, was not enough to pay the bills. They soon fell behind in everything—and this month they did not even have all the rent.



Clarita found a wallet while walking home from work. In the wallet was \$2,014.00 in cash and two plane tickets to Cancun. There was no identification. Many thoughts quickly filled Clarita's mind as she looked at the wallet. The cash was enough to pay their rent and utilities for the month. She could probably cash in the tickets. Clarita wondered if finding the wallet was a blessing from God. She took the wallet home and told Mark about it. He didn't ask to see the wallet nor did he get excited about the find.

Quietly and simply, Mark reminded his wife, "There are things that seem like a blessing, but that can also be a curse. I believe finding this wallet is like that. This is a test, Clarita."

Clarita smiled at her handsome, young husband. Perhaps the main reason she loved him was his ability to trust God. He trusted God in everything and consulted Him daily about everything else. Not once in the past year had she heard him get upset over their circumstances. He continued to say "the Lord will provide" about everything.

"Well, how do we pass the test?" Clarita asked.

"We do the right thing," said Mark. "We turn the wallet and all of its contents over to the police, because it's the honest thing to do. And we keep trusting that God is the source of our supply, not anything else. Not even found riches."

Two days later Clarita received an unexpected telephone call from their local television news team. The reporter wanted to know all about the person who had found the wallet filled with a couple of thousand dollars. Mark handed the phone to a stunned and slightly unprepared Clarita. When the reporter asked her couldn't she have used the money she turned in, a nervous Clarita replied, "Sure we could have. I mean our rent is due and all our bills are behind because Mark hasn't been able to find another job since he was laid off last year. But our needs didn't give us a right to someone else's money."

That comment so impressed the reporter that he led with the story on the evening news. That comment so impressed the community that Mark received ten job offers. A very rich old lady gave the couple a small house. "You can sell it or live in it," the rich woman said. Several non-profit organizations came forth and offered to assist with their utility bills. Perhaps the most

surprising way the Mark and Clarita were rewarded for their trust in God was when an unknown benefactor provided a cash award that was equal to the amount of cash they had turned in.

“I can’t believe all this,” Clarita exclaimed to Mark. “I guess this means we passed the test.”

Again—quietly and simply, Mark spoke to his young wife. She was still a new babe in Christ. She had accepted the Lord shortly before they started dating three years ago. “The test is in this moment,” said Mark. “The test is do we have a clear understanding of what happened this week.”

“Well, then,” responded Clarita, “the test is to be able to see beyond our circumstances.’

Mark turned his head away as he smiled. His smile was for the Lord. “Thank you, Lord,” he said in his heart. Mark was thanking God for the way He developed souls.