

Pumpkin Seeds

By

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(If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9)

[Enter CHARLIE with a fishing pole and can and KAREN with a fishing pole and lunch box]

NARRATOR

It was spring. The day was sunny for a change, and Karen and Charlie were all ready to go to the creek to fish. Charlie cut new poles and hunted up hooks while Karen packed a lunch. They were out behind the barn digging bait when grandfather came around the corner and saw them.

[Enter GRANDFATHER]

GRANDFATHER

I've just been looking for you two. I want you to take these pumpkin seeds down to the cornfield in the bottom pasture and plant them. It won't take long, and when you finish you may go fishing.

[CHARLIE takes the pumpkin seeds]

NARRATOR

Karen and Charlie were disappointed. This was the first good day for fishing all spring. It seemed awful to have to give it up now, even for an hour or two. With long faces, they started for the cornfield.

[Exit GRANDFATHER]

[CHARLIE and KAREN begin to walk-in-place to the side.]

NARRATOR

Charlie carried the poles and the bait, and Karen took the lunch and the paper sack of pumpkin seeds.

[CHARLIE and KAREN stop and began to plant the seeds on the far side of the stage You hear the sound of running water.]

NARRATOR

They arrived at the lower field and began to work. But the creek just a little farther down the road looked too inviting. How could they think of work on a day like this?

[On the other side of the stage there are optional jumping fish and a dog with a fish in his mouth.]

KAREN

Are the worms still alive?

CHARLIE

I'll check

[CHARLIE holds up a can full of wiggling worms.]

DOG

Bark! Bark!

KAREN

What's the use of planting these old pumpkins, anyway? Grandfather already planted some in the upper cornfield.

CHARLIE

I know what! See this old stump? Let's hide the sack of seeds there and come back tomorrow to plant it.

KAREN

Well... are you sure it would be all right?

CHARLIE

Come on, I want to go fishing. No one will ever know.

[CHARLIE takes the bag of seeds from KAREN and puts them in the stump.]

NARRATOR

They buried the bag of seeds in the old, rotten stump, covered it with soil, and hurried away to the creek to fish.

[Exit CHARLIE and KAREN and DOG]

[CHARLIE and KAREN with the fishing poles casting and reeling them in with DOG between them, optional jumping fish.]

NARRATOR

By late afternoon the two had caught half a dozen fish-enough for the whole family. They carried them home, and mother fried them for supper. By this time everyone had forgotten about the pumpkin seeds.

[CHARLIE and KAREN walk right carrying fish to where MOM, whom is holding a frying pan, is standing. CHARLIE puts a fish in the frying pan.]

2

KAREN'S BEDROOM/DREAM

2

[KAREN has her head on a pillow.]

NARRATOR

Karen remembered the seeds that night as she lay in bed.

KAREN

I wish we had stayed and planted the seeds as Grandfather said. Oh, well, Charlie and I will do it first thing in the morning, and then everything will be all right.

[KAREN turns her head away from the crowd]

3

OUTSIDE NEAR THE RIVER

3

NARRATOR

But everything was not all right. When Karen woke up the next morning, it was raining. It rained all that day, and the next, and the next. By the time the rain stopped, Karen and Charlie had both forgotten all about the pumpkin seeds again.

[KAREN and CHARLIE and DOG splashing around in the rain. CHARLIE can be holding a umbrella and KAREN can be wearing a rain hat.]

4

INSIDE THE HOUSE

4

[KAREN alone with a open bible]

NARRATOR

One Saturday morning several weeks later, Karen was practicing a Bible verse for Sunday school. She said it over and over to herself so that she would remember it.

KAREN

Numbers 32:23, *"But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out."*

NARRATOR

Suddenly, the meaning of the verse came to her, and she was surprised to find that it had something to do with her.

[KAREN looks surprised]

KAREN

"...and be sure your sin will find you out."

The pumpkin seeds! We forgot about the pumpkin seeds! And that verse says that Grandfather is sure to find out about it.

5 KAREN'S BEDROOM/DREAM

5

[KAREN lying in bed awake looking up]

NARRATOR

That night Karen couldn't sleep. She kept thinking how wrong it had been for her and Charlie to deceive Grandfather about the pumpkin seeds.

KAREN

We meant to go back and plant them, but still we did wrong.

[KAREN turns her head so the crowd can't see her eyes]

[Enter MONSTER-PUMPKIN]

[MONSTER-PUMPKIN goes over to KAREN to scare her]

NARRATOR

When she finally fell asleep, she dreamed that the room was full of pumpkins with grinning faces. They laughed at her and came closer and closer, until she awoke with a frightened cry.

[KAREN AWAKES WITH A SCREAM]

NARRATOR

In the morning, Charlie and Karen had a talk.

KAREN

We need to tell Grandfather right away, We did wrong, and we need to tell the truth about it.

CHARLIE

Ok, you are right, we will tell him after lunch.

NARRATOR

At lunch, before they had told Grandfather anything, he made an announcement to the whole family.

GRANDFATHER

I have decided that Karen and Charlie may have the pumpkins that they planted in the bottom cornfield, They can sell them for ten cents a piece.

NARRATOR

Think of that! Ten cents a piece for all the pumpkins they had planted, and they knew there wouldn't be a single pumpkin.

CHARLIE

Grandfather, we hid the pumpkin seeds in an old stump.

KAREN

Yes grandfather, We wanted to go fishing.

CHARLIE

We were going to come back later to plant them...

KAREN

...but it started raining and then we forgot about them.

NARRATOR

Grandfather listened without a word until they finished.

GRANDFATHER

I've known for a long time what you did with the pumpkin seeds. I've just been waiting for you to

(MORE)

GRANDFATHER (cont'd)
come to me. I believe you have
learned a lesson which you will
not forget.

CHARLIE

KAREN
But how did you find out,
Grandfather?

GRANDFATHER
Come with me, I want to show you
something.

[GRANDFATHER, CHARLIE, and KAREN begin to walk.]

NARRATOR
Wonderingly, without a word, they
followed Grandfather to the
cornfield and straight to where
the old rotten stump had been.

[You see the stump with vines coming out of it.]
But when they got there, they
could not see the stump. There
were pumpkin vines all over it-not
big, strong vines like the ones
that grew in the fields, but
thin, sickly vines crowding each
other for space.

The soil in the stump had been so
rich that the seeds had sprouted
their way through the sack and up
to the light and air. The vines
told Grandfather where the
pumpkin seeds were as plainly as
if they could have spoken. And
they did seem to speak to Karen
and Charlie. They said,

CHARLIE

KAREN
Be sure your sin will find you
out

NARRATOR
How glad they were then that they
had confessed to Grandfather and
he had forgiven them!