



*Five Lessons for Living (Part II of II)*

[...“Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream,” he inquired. By now, more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient.]

*“Thirty-five cents,” she brusquely replied.*

*The little boy again counted his coins.*

*“I’ll have the plain ice cream,” he said.*

*The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table, and, curtly, walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier, and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry, as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies.*

*You see, he couldn’t have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.*

***4th Important Lesson: The Obstacle in Our Path***

*In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king’s wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone moved. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. Once the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.*

***5th Important Lesson: Giving When it Counts***

*Little Liz was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery was a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. Hesitating a moment before taking a deep breath, he said, “Yes I’ll do it if it will save her.” As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as the color returned to Liz’s cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, “Will I start to die right away?” Being young, the little boy misunderstood the doctor. He thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her. (...many thoughts to ponder.)Fr. T.*