

"In my father's house, there are many dwelling places."

I will now share with you some insight into what Our Lord might have meant when he said his **'father's house'** had **'many dwelling places.'**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Once upon a time, a woman by the name of Sally jumped up as soon as she saw the surgeon come out of the operating room. Urgently, she asked:

"How is my little boy? Is he going to be all right? When can I see him?"

The surgeon said:

"I'm sorry. We did all we could, but ...your boy ...didn't make it."

Sally said:

**"Why do little children get cancer? Doesn't God care any more?
Where were you, God, when my son needed you?"**

The surgeon asked:

**"Would you like some time ...alone ...with your son?
One of the nurses will be out in a few minutes, before he's transported to the university."**

Sally asked the nurse to stay with her while she said good-bye to her son.

The grief stricken mother kept running her fingers through the little boy's thick, red, curly hair.

The nurse asked, almost in a whisper:

"Would you like a lock of his hair?"

Sally nodded yes. The nurse cut a lock of the boy's hair, put it in a plastic bag, and handed it to Sally. The mother said:

"It was Jimmy's idea to donate his body to the university for study. He said it might help somebody else. I said 'no' at first, but Jimmy said, 'Mom, I won't be using it ...after I die. Maybe it will help some other little boy spend one more day with his Mom.'"

She went on:

**"My Jimmy had a heart of gold, always thinking of someone else,
always wanting to help others if he could."**

Sally walked out of Children's Hospital for the last time, after spending most of the last six months there. She put the bag, with Jimmy's belongings, on the seat beside her in the car. The drive home was difficult. It was even harder, now, to enter the empty house. She carried Jimmy's belongings and the plastic bag, with the lock of his hair, to her son's room. She started placing the model cars and other personal things back in his room, exactly where he had always kept them. She lay down across his bed and, hugging his pillow... cried herself to sleep.

It was around midnight when Sally awoke.

Lying beside her on the bed was a folded letter.

The letter said:

*"Dear Mom, I know you're going to miss me; **BUT** ...don't think that I will ever forget you or stop loving you, just 'cause I'm not around to say, **'I LOVE YOU.'** I will always love you, Mom, even more with each day. Someday we will see each other again. Until then, if you want to adopt a little boy, so you won't be so lonely, that's 'ok' with me. He can have my room and old stuff to play with. **BUT**, if you decide to get a girl instead, she probably wouldn't like the same things us boys do. You'll have to buy her dolls and 'stuff' girls like, you know. Don't be sad thinking about me. This really is a neat place. Grandma and Grandpa met me as soon as I got here and showed me around some; it will take a long time to see everything.*

*The angels are so cool! I love to watch them fly. And, you know what? Jesus doesn't look like any of his pictures. Yet, when I saw Him, I knew it was Him. Jesus, himself, took me to see **GOD the FATHER!** And guess what, Mom? I got to sit on God's knee and talk to Him, like I was somebody important. That's when I told Him that I wanted to write you a letter, to tell you good-bye and everything. **BUT**... I already knew that wasn't allowed. Well ...you know what Mom? God handed me some paper and His own personal pen to write you this letter. I think 'Gabriel' is the name of the angel who is going to drop this letter off to you.*

God said for me to give you the answer to one of the questions you asked:

'Where was He when I needed him?' *God said that He was in the same place with me, as when His son, Jesus Christ, was hanging on the cross. He said that he was right there, as He always is... with all His children.*

Oh, by the way, Mom, no one else can see what I've written except you. To everyone else, this is just a blank piece of paper. Isn't that cool? I have to give God His pen back now. He needs it to write some more names in the Book of Life. Tonight I get to sit at the table with Jesus for supper. I'm sure the food will be great.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you: I don't hurt anymore. The cancer is all gone. I'm glad because I couldn't stand that pain anymore and... God couldn't stand to see me hurt so much, either. That's when He sent 'The Angel of Mercy' to come get me. The Angel said I was a 'Special Delivery!' How about that?

Signed with love ...from God, Jesus ...& Me, Jimmy.

*I think what I have just shared with you may be something that Jesus meant when he said his **'father's house'** has **'many dwelling places.'** Regardless...*

...I pray that our loving God, our Abba, will now bless you, esp. moms:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.