



VINEGAR, OIL, AND A DOZEN ROSES

Robin Hetherington

I cried like a baby when I saw them...a dozen roses! The hues of pink were contrasted by the deep green leaves. White baby's breath popped out like fireworks around the arrangement. I breathed in deeply to catch the fragrance of each petal. There they were; just for me! His card had been purposely placed on just the right angle leaning against the vase. The wooden heart he carved was lying there too with the wood burning-tool smell still lingering on it. To know that he had done this just for me was overwhelming. What I was beholding was really embracing me. It was a moment in time that was all mine, and I wanted nothing to stop the joy I was feeling and hoped for no distractions to take me away.

The next day I was still contemplating all he had done. It meant he had used a good chunk of his pay check that week and had intentionally done so in time for my early birthday celebration. Now I wondered how he knew where I kept the vases. The flowers were in one that was all too familiar.

As I sat there admiring the show of love demonstrated by what he had done, it caught my eye! I saw the marking line for vinegar, water, and oil on the vase. Then I knew. My sweet son of 18 years had cleverly displayed his love in my salad dressing bottle!!! I laughed and cried some more. Instead of salad dressing in the bottle he had put 12 hugs, 12 kisses, 12 of his smiles, and 12 "I love you MOM". Those roses in the salad dressing bottle poured over me the care, respect, affection, devotion, admiration, and love that my son had for me. This kind of salad dressing would forever taste perfect in my heart, manufactured and bottled by my son with a freshness date that reads "Happy Birthday Mom" and no expiration date. Vinegar, oil, and a dozen roses. Yeah, I'll take that over the salad of my life anytime!

And then the Lord gently spoke to me through Isaiah 46. "Listen to Me, O house of (Robin), and all the remnant of the house of Israel. You have been upheld by Me from your birth (it's your birthday Robin, how long have I been upholding you...count the years!) I have carried you from the time you were in the womb. (Feeling old?...I'm still here for you, Robin!) And even to your gray hairs I will carry you! (You can't hide it from Me! Let the gray remind you that I'm still here for you!) I have made, and I will bear, even I will carry, and will

deliver you. (No matter what you have to face in the future.) For I AM GOD, and there is no other. I AM GOD and there is none like Me. Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times THINGS THAT ARE NOT YET DONE. (I have more surprises for you, Robin...I'm not yet done with the things I want to do in your life!) My counsel will stand, and I WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE. I am able to call a bird of prey from the east, and a man who executes my counsel I am able to bring from a far country. INDEED, I HAVE SPOKEN IT. I WILL ALSO BRING IT TO PASS. I HAVE PURPOSED IT. I WILL ALSO DO IT.”
(Is 46:3-11)

It was as if Jesus was saying to me, ‘You thought you had a typical salad dressing bottle – but look what you son made of it...you thought your birthday was just another day – but look what a surprise was waiting for you...you thought with age you might be less useful- but if I can have your son turn vinegar, oil and a dozen roses into something special JUST FOR YOU, can you see now that I want to turn your life into something special JUST FOR ME?...If a typical salad dressing bottle can be turned into a vase, surely a typical woman of your age can be turned into a vessel set apart for Me...The love you felt from Jason is only a tiny taste of the love I have waiting for you...So take all of Me in; every petal of My Word is just as fragrant as those roses...Breathe in deeply to catch the fragrance of every part of the love I have JUST FOR YOU...Here I AM...JUST FOR YOU!...’

“For I am God, and there is no other. I am God, and there is none like ME. Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times THINGS THAT ARE NOT YET DONE.”

~Condensed and rewritten from the original, December 18, 2003



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