

The Miracle of \$1.11
Who Was Arnold Abott
Life is A Gift-Things to Think About

Blessings to All:

¹The Miracle of \$1.11 – True Story!

Tess was a precocious eight-year-old when she heard her Mom and Dad talking about her little brother, Andrew. All she knew was that he was very sick, and they were completely out of money. They were moving to an apartment complex next month because Daddy didn't have the money for the doctor bills and her house. Only a very costly surgery could save him now and it was looking like there was no-one to loan them the money. She heard Daddy say to her tearful Mother with whispered desperation, "Only a miracle can save him now."

Tess loved her little brother very much. She had been saving pennies for many months and had them in a glass jar in her room. She ran to her bedroom and pulled the glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured all the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes. There was a pharmacy not too far away, just a few blocks over. She heard her friends from school talking about the miracle medicine at the pharmacy. She never gave it much thought, but she remembered it now.



She carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door. She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too

¹ <https://academictips.org/blogs/the-miracle-of-1-11-true-story/>

busy at this moment talking to another man. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good.

Finally, she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter real hard. That did it! The pharmacist turned around and starred at the little girl.

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. "Can't you see I'm talking? This is my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question. "You're just going to have to wait until I am ready to wait on you."

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick... and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little.



Tess would not be deterred. "Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well-dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't really know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. "I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago. "One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audibly. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to."

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents – the exact price of a miracle for little brothers." He took her money jar in one hand and with

the other hand he grasped her hand and said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of miracle you need."

That well-dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neurosurgery. The operation was completed without charge and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place.



"That surgery," her Mom whispered to her husband, "it was a real miracle. Tess was the miracle. She acted with true love and God heard her.

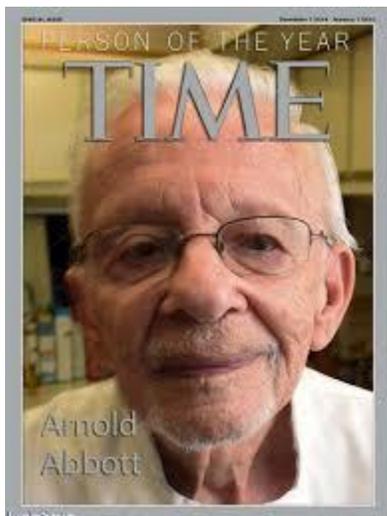
The miracle cost... one dollar and eleven cents ... plus the faith of a little child.

Some of the words have been changed over time, but the story is reported to be true.

The faith of a little girl and God's grace matched Tess and Dr. Armstrong at the same time and same place. Jesus heard the prayers of Tess and provided the healing hands of the surgeon.



Arnold Abott the Lifelong activist who fought for the homeless -- dead at 94



In February 2019 a man most people never heard about, died. But his legacy lives on. A wonderful testament of treating others with love and kindness. His feeding the homeless is a story to fill the heart and to thank God for people like him, who do this and more, for the love of those who need our help.



Arnold Abbott, the soft-spoken lifelong activist, has died — five years after he drew international attention for feeding the homeless despite threats he'd be jailed. Abbott, of Fort Lauderdale, died Friday at age 94, according to his family and his attorney. Abbott began feeding the homeless on Fort Lauderdale's beach in 1991, although it was

'illegal' to provide such a social service on the beach. Years later, the city demanded that he stop, but he refused, saying he and his corps of volunteers had a right to feed the homeless so they could eat on the beach like anyone else.

"I've been fighting injustice all my life," Abbott told the South Florida Sun Sentinel **in 1999 after a showdown with police.** "I was always taught I am my brother's keeper. I'm a fighter."



His defiance put the city of Fort Lauderdale in a pickle because it wouldn't look good to actually follow through on its threats. "I don't want to prosecute him," the city's prosecutor said in 1999. "He wanted to be carted off and be a martyr. We're not going to do it."

'Love and respect,' Abbott's crusade to help others again drew attention in 2014, when Fort Lauderdale passed another ordinance putting new restrictions on feeding the homeless in public.



Those distributing food were required to provide portable toilets if restrooms aren't available, and Abbott was ticketed while dishing out food at a park.

He faced up to 60 days in jail or up to a \$500 fine, and the news media coverage went viral, attracting French and Russian news crews, among others, recalls his lawyer, John David. "Treat everybody with love and respect. That's what he really believed," David said.



Laura Hansen, the CEO of the Coalition to End Homelessness, said Abbott's standing up to the government was "something few people have the strength to do."

"You have to be a certain kind of person willing to go up against the city and the county all the time," she said. "Arnold was 'OK, take me to jail.' He was willing to, if he was going to go out there and break the law. Every time they passed a law prohibiting him from feeding, he'd feed anyway."

He "fought hard for the rights of the homeless and the rights of the disenfranchised," Hansen said. "And with him gone I don't know who is left that could stand up to the city."

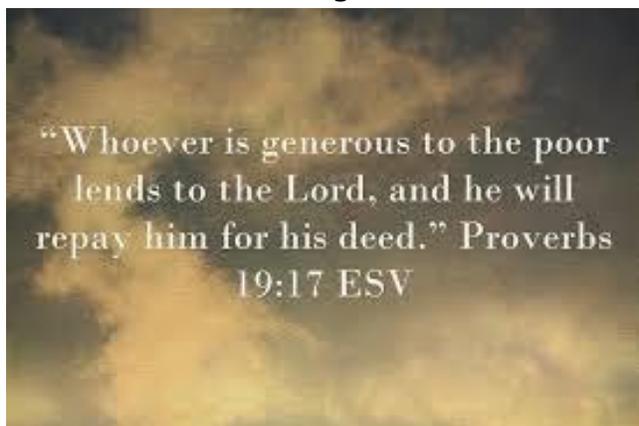
Born in Beverly, Mass., Abbott was attending the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 when the U.S. entered World War II. He dropped his pre-med studies to enlist and ended up in the infantry, seeing action in North Africa and Italy. He was awarded two Purple Hearts.

Returning to Pennsylvania after the war, Abbott was a political activist for 18 years in suburban Philadelphia, fighting for civil rights, fair housing and other causes. In the 1960s, he headed to Mississippi to register blacks to vote, driving them to the courthouse.

"That's why I'm not afraid of the police," he told the Sun Sentinel in 1999. "We were forced off the road a couple of times. I had the KKK on my back."

He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1964 and 1968. In the 1960s, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported how Abbott was the first Democrat to be elected a township commissioner in one region. He moved to Broward County in 1970, opened a jewelry store, and continued his push to change the world.

In 2000 he successfully sued the city, saying feeding was his religious right. He had a religion professor from Palm Beach Atlantic College testify that the world's three major religions all require charity to the poor. Abbott, who is Jewish, said he followed the teachings of Jesus.



"I told you God is on our side, but he's not subpoena-able," Abbott gleefully said at the time. In 2014, attorneys for Abbott challenged new city ordinances on constitutional grounds, and the city stopped enforcing them, in part because of the negative publicity.

In December 2014, Abbott was named "Advocate of the Year" by the Congressional Hunger Center and the National Coalition for the Homeless. While his supporters had likened him to a rebel and do-gooder, other homeless advocates had said he could have still cared for the homeless with a less in-your-face approach.

Former Mayor Jack Seiler defended the city's laws to the Sun Sentinel in 2014. "I'm not satisfied with having a cycle of homeless in the city of Fort Lauderdale," he said at the time. "Providing them with a meal and keeping them in that cycle on the street is not productive."

On Friday, Seiler said he knew that Abbott "meant well" and "had very good intentions." "I never questioned his desire to help those less fortunate. My issue is I just wanted him to do it in compliance with the laws," Seiler said. "Listen, he wanted to help people, and he did help people and it was very admirable. My issue was if he's going to feed, let's feed in a sanitary, safe location. And preferably let's do it indoors at a church or a kitchen."

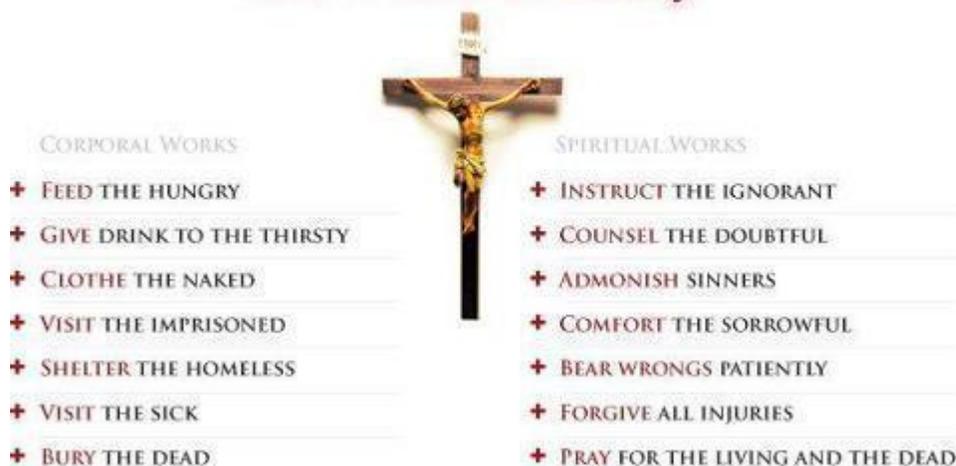
Abbott never cared one way or the other.

"If you stand for anything, half are going to hate you and half are going to love you," Abbott told the newspaper at the height of the controversy. **"If everybody loves you, you accomplish nothing."**

He is survived by four children, Pam Trimble, of Barto, Pa.; Robert Abbott, of Barto, Pa.; Tara Abbott, of Fort Lauderdale; Andrew Abbott, of Austin, Texas; two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Pam Trimble confirmed there would not be a funeral or service since her father did not want either. "He felt that would be too self-important," explained David, his attorney.

The Works of Mercy



Life Is A Gift-Things to Think About

Today before you think of saying an unkind word–
think of someone who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food–
think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband or wife–
think of someone who is crying out to God for a companion.

Today before you complain about life–
think of someone who went too early to heaven.

Before you complain about your children–
think of someone who desires children but they're barren.

Before you argue about your dirty house, someone didn't clean or sweep–
think of the people who are living in the streets.

Before whining about the distance, you drive–
think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet.

And when you are tired and complain about your job–
think of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wished they had your job.

But before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another–
remember that not one of us are without sin and we all answer to one maker.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down–
put a smile on your face and thank God you're alive and still around.

Life is a gift – Live it, Enjoy it, Celebrate it, and Fulfill it.

Proverbs From Around the World To Help Your Children

Many Moms and Dads want to start teaching their children the Bible. Yet those same parents sometimes get paralyzed and never take their first step. The reason is simple ... they just don't know where to start.

Here is one place you could start: The Book of Proverbs is replete with wisdom for life and parenting. The selected verses below are good for your whole family to learn together. They can become the centerpiece of your kitchen table discussions and a tour guide for difficult conversations.

The Book of Proverbs is arguably the most practical book in the entire Bible. So, as you search for a place to start in the teaching and instruction of your children, why not start in a place that will make immediate impact? And that impact is not limited to your children ... it will happen in mom and dad, too.

Pride/humility

1. Proverbs 16:18 – Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.
2. Proverbs 3:5-8 – Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.

It is essential for children to learn of their dependence upon God. Starting while they are young will help for when they get older. (At the same time, it is never too late to start infusing them with truth.)

James 4:6 tell us, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Consider the magnitude of this truth. If we allow pride to take up residence in our children, we are poisoning them to be opposed by God. Grace comes to the humble, and humility only comes when we overcome the lie of self-sufficiency.

Proverbs 16:18 and 3:5-8 can be a great starting point for your children, and your family, to understand the problem with pride. With each small step they take toward humility, they move one small step from positioning themselves against God. This is always good.

The fear of the Lord

1. Proverbs 1:7 – The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
2. Proverbs 14:27 – The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death.

Though the fear of the Lord is not very popular, it is very necessary. The two verses above are just a small, small sampling of the Scriptures that speak directly to the importance of fearing God.

Once we are aware of our dependency upon Him, we become aware of His power and sway over our lives. This cultivates a healthy fear. And that fear is the very starting point of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding (see Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10).

It is much better for your children to fear the Lord than it is for them to fear you. He is infallible ... you are not. He is all-powerful ... you are not. He is sovereign ... you are not. And, most practically, He is omnipresent ... you are not.

Avoiding the fear of man

1. Proverbs 29:25 – The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

Peer pressure is not unique to adolescents. It is everywhere. It is peer pressure that causes children to chaff against their parents: “I don’t want my friend to think I’m weak and cooperative.” It causes one sibling to leave another out: “This game is just for the big kids ... not for you.”

The Bible has a term for what we now call “peer pressure”—it is “fear of man.” This does not only mean that you are afraid of a playground bully or a nasty neighbor. It means that you fear the opinion of another, and that fear controls you. It is important to note that, nearly everywhere you find “fear of man” in the Bible, you will find “fear of God” or “trust in God” right alongside it. These two “fears” are in conflict with one another and cannot reside peacefully together.

If we are to be successful in cultivating a healthy fear of God in our families and with our children, we must at the same time train ourselves away from the fear of

man. Learning and memorizing this proverb will benefit your family now and throughout your lives.

Receiving instruction/criticism/wisdom from others

1. Proverbs 12:15 – The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.
2. Proverbs 15:32 – He who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

Through the church, God calls us into relationships with others. These relationships are not optional; they are essential. So, too, is learning to receive what God wants to say to us through these relationships. This is no less true of an 8-year-old than it is of a 48-year-old. We all need wisdom, and God often chooses to give it through the mouth of a wise counselor.

We not only need to learn of the limited wisdom that we ourselves possess. We also need to learn of the importance of being surrounded by wise people. It is good to consider the advice of others. It is better if those others are wise and not foolish advisors.

Children, from toddlers to teenagers, resist depending on the wisdom of others. There is a good reason for that. They are people, just like us. This tendency is not limited to children ... it covers us all. So, committing these passages to our memories can go a long way toward preparing our hearts to accept counsel—wise counsel.

When life gets hard

1. Proverbs 18:10 – The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.

It's difficult for children to understand hardships in life. Even when our children are teenagers, life gets very confusing when it's less than perfect. Do you recall the overwhelming sentiment that swept across the nation on 9/11? Why would God allow something like this?

The truth is that God does not always provide answers for why we experience hardships. That does not mean, however, that God does not provide help. Even in

the midst of our confusion and lack of understanding, God provides a refuge for us in times of trouble.

Not every difficulty will hit your children when you are around. They need to know where to run when life gets hard on their own. They need to learn, like you do, that God is always present and always available for the righteous. And, in the midst of confusion, we sometimes need something more than understanding; we sometimes need safety. We need a safe place to be confused, hurt, or broken. In reply, God says, "Come to me."

When God and I disagree

1. Proverbs 21:3 – To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.

God does not make light of our heartfelt sentiment. However, He does not make it His most prized goal. In more than just this verse, God lets us know that He desires our obedience. Not because we earn something by it, but because when we obey, we acknowledge with our actions that His wisdom is supreme ... not ours.

God does delight in sacrifice. He delights in our service, in our passionate worship, in our love for Him. However, true love for God does not express itself in disobedience. So, even more than our sacrifices, God desires for us to do righteousness and justice.

When they are young, children have an opportunity to practice this proverb under their parents' authority. As they grow, that authority passes ultimately to its only deserving object—God Himself. Then as adults, and even as parents, we have a chance to model this verse for our children.

Most important of all

1. Proverbs 4:23 – Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

We desire for the springs of life to flow freely from the hearts of our children, our spouse, even ourselves. However, a neglected heart is full of dams and dikes, redirecting and blocking the otherwise free-flowing springs of life. Where have these obstacles come from?

Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

<https://catholicfamilynewsletter.com>

