



"Don't Judge We All Have Our Demons"

Over spring break, Carlos and I decided we would take "Emma" to New Orleans a city I had always wanted to visit and even though we lived in Louisiana for 8 years had somehow never managed to get there.. Now if you have never been to that wonderful city let me assure you that you my friend are in for a real treat! It is a city steeped full of culture and there is so much to do that we found 5 days was just not enough time to see everything I wanted. As a matter of fact, we are planning to return! I had researched and carefully planned that trip so that each day would be so full there would rarely be any down time. Both Carlos and Emma would be crying "Uncle we surrender" by the third day we did so much walking....lol. You need to walk because the food....oh my the food....is absolutely amazing. The first night we had to wait over an hour and a half at the restaurant the concierge had recommended. Emma ordered baked catfish much to my disagreement....she likes fried and since you eat with your eyes first I knew disaster would soon be upon us and so of course when it arrived she ran from the table in tears. I coaxed her back to try just a taste as at this point we were all starving. That plate of catfish was swimming in butter, garlic, and Cajun seasoning and personally I could have just inhaled it! She took one bite and said oh you are right it's delicious. I asked for a bite as it looked much better than my stuffed shrimp and I swear the pearly gates of Heaven swung open because that dish came straight from there! I think I had sprouted wings and was flying around the table.

One of our days would start with a steamboat ride down the Mississippi River to visit where the battle of New Orleans took place. We would have to leave our hotel by 9:00 a.m. as it was about a 20 minute walk through the French Quarter. Now, that time doesn't sound early to you and I, but Nola as the locals call it, is just waking up and the only people that seem to be out on the streets are the shop owners who are washing down the walkways and the cobblestone streets....yes they are cobblestone...so quaint! The architecture isn't actually French either it is Spanish....can you believe that? I am telling you it is like stepping into another world which is exactly how I felt when we returned home...I had been to another world! Well, as we were walking along Carlos was in the lead, Emma next and I last. This had become our routine walk pattern as she was almost hit by cars several times....they drive crazy and she kept wanting to step out into traffic. Several times I jerked her back so hard I snapped her neck....I am telling you I think they must drive like that in New York City!

Like I said the streets were virtually empty but I did hear someone washing the sidewalk so I looked in his direction as we were crossing an intersection. There stood a man holding a brown paper bag, he took a drink doubled over and vomited. He stood back up looked at me and said "don't judge we all have our demons". Well, first of all I didn't really understand the situation so how was I judging him? As we were walking all I could think about was what just happened. There was no one else around but me so he had to be talking to me that was a given....he threw up....yep...the brown paper bag....oh I get it now....that was as my Granny used to say a big beer. It was 9 o'clock in the morning and this man needed a drink to get going but his body was so sick it rejected it. He thought by my looking at him I was judging him and I didn't even know what was going on! I was bothered by this off and on the entire day; the fact that he thought I was sitting in judgment of him. Trust me even though I try to walk daily I have enough sin in my life I don't want to sit in judgment of anyone!

Later on that evening, Carlos, Emma and I were at dinner and we were talking about our day. I brought up that

man and both of them looked at me like I was crazy, saying what man? I said that man on such and such street and once again both of them said they didn't see him. Now I say to you I don't know how they couldn't have. He was one of the few people out that morning and it has give me such quandary as to why I saw him and they didn't, after all Carlos was the lead and didn't he look both ways before crossing the street? That man was standing in the middle of street holding a brown paper bag...kind of hard to miss that! They swore he wasn't there but I saw him just a real as you and I and he did speak to me. Was it some fallen Angel speaking to me....do I have an area in my life I am judging someone or some thing? Don't judge, we all have our demons....how well do I know that and I think every one of you do. It is something every Christian struggles with...trying not to be judgmental even though there is scripture after scripture about that very subject. As Brother Bob said Sunday, get that telephone pole out of your eye before you speak of the splinter in mine.

This much I do know, I saw what I saw, heard what I heard, it's an experience I won't ever forget and he left me with a stern warning "Don't Judge We ALL Have Our Demons". So I say to you was he there or not....you be the judge.

Hugs

Rose

BACK TO SCHOOL TEACHERS BRUNCH

These are items the teachers have requested. August 11th will be here before we realize it. If you don't like to shop, you can give Linda Johnson your money....she will shop for you!

If you have any questions, please contact Linda. Thank you!

*MULTIPLE REQUEST

Clorox Wipes*

#2 Pencils*

Dry Erasers markers*

Dry Erase eraser

Crayons

Tri-write pencils

Colored pencils*

Red pens

Black/Blue pens*

Highlighters

Black sharpies

Playdough

Index cards

Staplers (2)

Paper towels

Kleenex*

Stress Balls

Wet wipes

Post-it note pads

Manila paper

Thera-bands

Construction paper

Card stock

Poster board

Notebook paper*

Composition book*

Paint (any kind for art)

Measuring spoons & cups

Pot holders

Fabric scissors

Hand sewing needles

Gift cards for incentives

Candy for rewards*

Legal size hanging folders

Reading strips

Sticky-back Velcro

Clear packing tape

Skittles

Tug of war rope

Glue sticks*

