



**THE PENNY  
PARABLE:  
IN GOD WE TRUST**

**BY  
MOLLY JO REALY**

The Penny Parable

By  
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## **COUNT YOUR PENNIES**

I have an affinity for pennies. I always have. As a child, finding one made the world amazing, and it made me feel lucky and blessed. A found penny can make the day invigorating and open a door to adventure.

I still look around for the unexpected second and very rare third penny laying about. Finding a dime or even a quarter mean all's right with the world.

I often dream not of finding gold coins, but copper ones. And when I do—in my dreams and in real life—it's utterly magical.

To this day, I still revel in the found joy that include other, deeper reasons.

I take to heart the phrase “count your pennies”. It's smart to make conscious decisions on where our resources go. When any situation arises that seems overwhelming, I learned a long time ago that when I can't, God can.

## **IN GOD WE TRUST**

Everyone loses bits of faith at times. We wonder how to make our way in this world when it seems so impossible to accomplish the tasks set before us. How will we find enough hours in the day to finish the chores, work the job, write the stories, have quality time with loved ones? How can we pay the bills when the monthly income is staggeringly less than what we need? How do we stop worrying about life and just believe? How do we continue trusting in Him? How?

In my darkest moments, in those times of despair and confusion whatever the cause or reason, He unfailingly puts a penny in my path. And I, unfailingly, feel refreshed.

Because when my faith is low, He is there to remind me. "In God We Trust."

## **ONE FOUNDATION**

Most of us still make the effort to pick up that stray coin when we see it. Why?

The penny is the foundation of American currency. It is only one cent. It's no longer useful except to pay taxes and collect in jars. Yet we still reach for it, still hold onto it, and still feel like Something Good can come of it. Because One is the beginning of all things.

The penny is a symbol of hope and a future. It's the foundation of everything. Not because it's money. But because it says right there, embossed without the possibility of being erased, "In God We Trust."

And He cares enough to bring that to our attention. Over and over and over again.

## **AS SMALL BLESSINGS GROW**

As in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), I believe God will continue to bless us as we continue to recognize His blessings.

It's important to acknowledge God in our daily lives. Too often, people cry out to Him for the big miracles, while disregarding the everyday ones He puts in our path.

God is under no obligation to bless us. He chooses to do so. Imagine that! The Creator of this entire Universe finds you so valuable that He wants to show *you* how every little thing counts.

So don't walk away from that penny. Make the effort to pick it up. After all, how can He trust us with bigger blessings if we refuse the little ones? Remember, to him who much is given, much will be expected (Luke 12:48).

Although most people pick up pennies on a whim, how many do so out of faith? The penny screams at us to trust Him, yet we don't see it that way. A penny is a child-like Faith that there's something good coming our way. Yet we still wait for something bigger before we believe our world can really change.

Many people are so consumed with waiting on the big miracles they neglect the everyday miracles all around them. Shelter, food, transportation, income, health. Our family and friends are always blessing us with their company and conversations. We have so much to fill our lives.

It's when we take stock of these things that we realize how God is already taking care of us.

There are many blessings in the little daily things.

## **START WITH FAITH, KEEP GOING WITH HOPE**

It's with faith the size of a mustard seed that mountains are moved (Matthew 17:20). This doesn't always mean a sudden shift in the cosmos, or sudden turn. Yes, there are spontaneous events that take our breath away. But most of the time, having faith takes endurance. It's a task of longevity. If it were immediate, we wouldn't need faith that things would work out. Let's face it—more often than not, faith is not Shake-and-Bake instant.

Unfortunately, the Real World doesn't work that way. Or maybe it's fortunate. Without perseverance, we wouldn't learn hope. And hope can be the biggest miracle of all (Romans 5:1-5).

Hope leads to possibilities. Hope says, "Yes!" when the world says, "What?!" Hope says, "Let's try!" and "Try again!" Even when we'd rather give up.

## **IT STARTS WITH ONE**

Everything begins with One. One plan. One base. One step. And then, one more.

The penny is not insignificant. It's One. It's the beginning. It's a start. And pennies are everywhere.

When I see a solitary penny in my path, pick it up. Recognize it as a message from God, telling you you're loved enough to have His attentions. The penny tells us He still cares, even when we feel invisible or worthless. The penny tells us we have a foundation to build upon. And little by little, we'll make my mark.

Just like that solitary penny, we are all individual, and we are all valuable. And individually, we may be only one person. But together, we can make a difference.

Little by little.

One penny can't do much. But soon enough, they add up. Enough pennies can buy a loaf of bread. And to one person, one loaf of bread can change the world.

That one penny reminds us God is always nearer than we think. He is always taking care of the tiniest details, so we don't have to. He's our foundation.

It starts with one. And grows.

## **IT'S NOT ALWAYS PRETTY**

I keep a handful of pennies in a small tin on my desk. When I'm having a particularly difficult day, when the world doesn't seem nice or pleasant or peaceful, when stress is nearly overwhelming, I pull a penny out and keep it on my desktop.

On those terrible, difficult days, I hold it. Right there between my forefinger and thumb is a tangible, gentle reminder that God sees everything. He knows everything.

And even if things don't go the way I want, even when my people are hurting and I'm helpless for them, even when I want to turn my back on God because His blessings seem to be invisible to the world at large . . . holding that penny grounds me. That penny tells me He knows I'm here. And it let's me know He's here, too.

One particularly trying day, God gave me another reason to trust Him. Although fully conscious of the penny in my hand and what it stood for, I was unaware of another message He was placing in my heart.

I found myself rubbing the penny as a stress release. Soon enough, the complicated situation was resolved. Everyone felt better. Taken care of. But I was left with a bit of dirt on my hand that had rubbed off from the penny. I washed my hands and returned to my desk to realize the penny was now shiny. Almost new.

## **SHINY AND NEW**

John 10:28-29 tells us that not only does Jesus have us safely in His grip, but our Father (Abba-Daddy) God is also holding us. That's a double dose of spiritual strength right there!

Imagine how valuable we, as invaluable as a single penny, must truly be if both the Father and the Son are holding us so very tightly.

Now, imagine the care and concern God must have for us as He rubs off the dirt and grime, taking it unto Himself and away from us.

The Bible is full of passages of the Lord cleansing us from ourselves and the world around us. Our failings, our sins, our humanness is removed and, by His rubbing, we are brought back to the Glory He created us to be. Once the world's deposits are removed from us, we can shine! We are made new!

Sometimes it's a gentle, affection touch to let us know He's there. Sometimes it's a harder scrubbing, a lesson learned and a discipline deserved. But it is always with the Love of a Savior!

## **PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER**

There may be scars He can't remove. Nicks and spots that will remain with you, a part of your very being. That doesn't alter your contribution to His pocket or His penny jar.

He will continue to collect you. He will continue to spiff you up and take the damages upon Himself. He will add you to His precious coin collection, and show you, you are not alone.

We're all part of something bigger. You are a foundational contribution to God's household. Whether you believe it or not. When you think your worth is nonexistent. When you wonder what it's all about.

Without your penny, He can't make a dollar. Without your shine, the world is dull. Without your scars, there are no lessons to learn. And without you to hold, His hands are empty.

You. Are. Important.

And as invaluable as a Penny.

He trusts in you. Trust also in Him.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Author of the romantic location mystery novel, [NOLA](#), Molly Jo Realy is an award-winning writer and author coach. Known as the Bohemian Hurricane, she encourages people to embrace their unique talents to come alive and stay wild every day. Addicted to cats, coffee, and pens in no particular order.

Her favorite quote is from Isaac Asimov ~ “I write for the same reason I breathe. Because if I didn’t, I would die.”

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