

The Old Battered Violin

*Inspired in the sorry of "At the Auction Sale"
of Myra Brooks Welch: "by P.Ribes, s.j.*

Intent of this Story

- ✓ *We Are God's Instruments.*
- ✓ *Only God knows our true worth.*
- ✓ *There is a lot of good hidden within us which is known only to God.*
- ✓ *If we allow Him to use us as he pleases, He will change our lives for the better*
- ✓ *A good musician like God can easily bring out beautiful music from our poor battered selves*

At the Auction Sale

It was a battered and scarred violin.
The auctioneer brought it out,
It was scarcely worth his while

He held it up and with a smile
He cried: "Good folks, who will start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar, a dollar" Then, "Two!"
Only two? Who will make it three?
"Three dollars, once: three dollars, twice; going for three"

But no! from the room, far back, a gray-haired
man came forward and picked up the bow;
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loose strings,
He played a melody so pure and sweet,
as caroling angels would sing.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low, said:
"What am I to bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand once, Three thousand, twice
And going, and gone," "Three thousand gone!" .

The people cheered, but some one exclaimed:
"I do not quite understand. What changed its worth so
quickly?"

Swift came the reply: `

The touch of a master's hand".

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

- We Are God's Instruments.
- Only God knows our true worth. A true violinist knows the worth of each violin.
- There is a lot of good hidden within us which is known only to God.
- He wants and He can to bring to fruition the good talents hidden within us.
- Yet we are not dead, inert instruments like the violin.
- We are living beings endowed with free will.
- God will not use force on us!
- So, we must not put obstacles to Him, but allow Him to use us freely as He pleases. .
- Like our Lady, we have to tell God: "Let it be done unto me according to your word"
- God, unceasingly, is inviting us to allow him to use us!
- He keeps sending us signals such as inspirations, promptings, graces, "inner touches."
- We have to be attuned to them. We have always to say "Yes" to God..
- To be able to be receptive to God's touches and inspirations, we have to be detached from earthly things and open to Him in prayer
- From time to time we have reflect and see how open and available we are to God's touches and invitations
- It is only by opening ourselves to God that we shall become living instruments with which he will play beautiful music as he did with Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. Francis of Assisi, the Little Flower and innumerable saints!

Personal Checkup

In all sincerity and honesty ask yourself before God the following

1. Do I allow God to play the music he would like to play with me or I place obstacles to Him to use me as He likes?
2. Am I too worldly and attached to people, to my possessions or to my own selfish interests?
3. What is God asking me in the here and now of my life? What is my answer to him?