



A Modern Day Tale for Teens

A Kernel or Popcorn

Behold at the time of the harvest, the ears of corn did bring forth
kernels which were dried and prepared for the popper's hand.
And then it was that the popper did take the kernels, all of which appeared alike
unto him and did apply the oil and the heat.
And it came to pass that when the heat was on, some did explode with promise and did magnify
themselves a hundred fold, and some did burst forth with whiteness which did both
gladden the eye and satisfy the taste of the popper.
And likewise some others did pop, but not too much.
And so it came to pass that those that had given of themselves did bring
delight to many munchers,
but those which kept of the warmth and did not burst forth were fit only to be cast out into the
pail and were thought of with hardness and disgust.
And thus we see that in the beginning all appear alike,
but when the heat is on, some come forth and give their all,
while others fail to pop and become as chaff to be discarded and forgotten.

Each day we find ourselves faced with the decision of how well we will perform. Someone applies the heat of the assignment and expect us to yield our best. We can choose to give our all and bring satisfactory results. We can hold back some of what we should give and feel regret and lack of fulfillment. Or we can choose to do little or nothing and eventually be thrown out.

The choice is ours each day. How you "pop" determines where you end up in the bowl.

For your reflection

Describe a time when you chose to remain a kernel.

What were the consequences of that decision?

Describe a situation in which you chose to pop.

What were the results of that choice?

What would you rather be: a kernel or popcorn?

For further reflection

Read Mt: 13:18-23 and/or Luke 8:5-8