



Love Came Down at Christmas

Mary Poppins is perhaps one of Disney's greatest musicals. It is fun, fanciful, and uplifting. The show is full of wonderful songs, lots of laughs, and captures monumental performances by its cast. But amidst all of its "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" fun and nonsense, the deep meaning of the story is found in the bird woman and the song about her, "Feed the Birds." When the Sherman brothers played their song, "Feed the Birds" for Walt Disney, he simply looked up and said, "That's it. That's what it's all about".

"Feed the Birds" sings of a woman who sits on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral each day, beckoning others to buy crumbs for only "tuppence a bag" to feed the birds. The meaning is simple--giving love, even just a little bit, makes all the difference in the world. The Banks children were well provided for, but their lives were empty for lack of love. The same was true of Mr. Banks. His prosperous career could not fill the void he felt in his heart. With the influence of Mary Poppins, Burt, and circumstances in their lives, the Banks family soon realized how much they needed love for themselves, and how happy it made them feel to give it. They saw that, like giving "tuppence a bag" to feed the birds, it does not take very much to give that little bit of extra love. They also realized that the "little bit of extra love" is all they really needed to be happy; for, without love, all of the other riches of life are empty.

A simple story, but is this not what God intended for us in our own lives? He gave us the ultimate offering of love in Jesus Christ; therefore, we should continue to give that love to each other. Chances are, many people have never given the bird woman and her song much thought. Unfortunately, Jesus often receives about the same amount of thought at Christmastime as the bird woman gets in *Mary Poppins*.

If we could only center our hearts, like the bird woman, on the belief that giving love can be more fulfilling than any other gift, we would more than likely feel that deep joy that God felt when He gave us his Son on Christmas night. On that night, Love truly did come down, and it was intended for all of us, and for us to give to each other. This kind of giving costs nothing, and takes only the opening of our hearts.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with giving gifts and celebrating in our various ways with feasts and parties, but let us always remember to give love first, and let it be the basis of everything we do, not only at Christmas, but always. With this kind of love, whether we have piles of presents or can only exchange a kiss, we will always be truly rich.

*"Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others, love for plea and gift and sign."*

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