

# Do It for Love

"Kate, Mother told me that you are saving your allowance to buy a puzzle you've had your eye on." Father and Kate were sitting outside watching Thomas and Pup play on the lawn.

"Yes, I've saved about half the amount I need," Kate replied.

"I talked with Mother, and we had an idea," Father said. "Would you like to earn some money helping Mother with extra chores around the house until you have enough money to buy that puzzle?"

"Oh, yes! I would really like that!" exclaimed Kate. She had thought she would need to wait until next month, but now perhaps she might be able to get it in a week's time!



Over the next couple of days, after returning home from school, Kate helped with additional chores around the house. She swept the leaves off the lawn, dusted the bookshelves in the living room, polished Father and Mother's shoes, and organized the dishware cabinet.

Soon, her jar of coins was almost filled to the top. In only a couple more days, she could have all the money she needed.

"Kate, will you put away the dishes in the rack, please?" Mother called. Kate had been counting up her coins, and now she put them away and headed for the kitchen.



"How much will I be paid for this job, Mother?" Kate asked as she entered the kitchen.

"I thought we had agreed that you would do 30 minutes of extra chores when you returned from school."

"Yes, but I've completed my 30 minutes. If I do this now, shouldn't I be paid extra?"

"Oh, I suppose so..." Mother said slowly.

Kate smiled and went to work.

That evening, after dinner was over, Father turned to Kate. "Kate, could you wash the dishes by yourself today? I need to take Thomas to soccer club."



"Sure. How much will I be paid for this job?" Kate asked, and she rejoiced a little inside as she thought of how much she will have made in just one day.

Father looked surprised and then concerned. "Kate, we can't pay you every time you help out around the house. We wanted to give you the opportunity to earn money so you could get that toy you wanted quickly, but being a part of this family means that we should all be willing to jump in and do things for each other just to help each other out."

Kate hung her head.



"If the only time you help out anymore is because you are being paid to do it, how would that make us feel?"

"Not nice," replied Kate, feeling ashamed over her behavior. After she had put the dishes away for Mother that afternoon, she hadn't felt good inside like she usually did when helping out around the house. "I'm sorry, Father. I have been too focused on making money. Of course, I will help with the dishes."

Father gave Kate a hug. "Thank you, Kate. I appreciate it, and Thomas does too." Kate's heart filled with warm feelings.



Kate resolved to not focus too much on earning money. For the rest of that week, she helped out whenever she could, even during times when it wouldn't earn her any money. She did it because she loved her family and enjoyed making life easier for them. After all, they did the same for her.

When the day finally arrived and she had enough money saved, Father, Mother, and Thomas all accompanied her to the store to buy the five-hundred-piece puzzle.

That afternoon, they worked on it together as they sipped hot cocoa and munched on freshly baked scones.

## The End

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