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Founder and CEO

My Ministry Minute

From The Heart Of The Founder

"DAMAGED GOODS"

This Ministry Minute is an excerpt from a letter written to a Peniel client from his beloved sister. He shared it with his counselor who shared it with me. I was so moved by it, I asked if I could feature it in my next Ministry Minute Newsletter. They both gave me permission to share it with you! Get ready to be blessed!

~ Dr. Spellman



I have a story to tell you about a trip I made to the grocery store the other day and it turned out to be a lesson for me. I hope you can get out of it what I did. Well first of all, if you really know me, you know how I clip coupons like crazy to save money and make my dollars stretch. Well, there I was in Giant Eagle with my shopping list and coupons all ready to go - looking for those bargains that I just couldn't live without! But before I grabbed my cart, something at the entrance caught my eye "Damaged Goods." A cart filled with dented cans and missing labels. No real rhyme or

reason, just random items that were not "shelf worthy." And suddenly, I knew just how they felt. Life sometimes delivers the unexpected. Lessons learned in the "School of Hard Knocks" bruise us, dent us and remove the label that defines who we really are. We feel as if we have been tossed into a bin, no longer worthy of a place on a shelf.

Some people substantiate the lie that we are second class failures and all hope is gone. Well no more! At that moment I leaned over and I intentionally chose a dented can with no label from the bin. Then I continued shopping feeling good that I picked up a "Damaged Good" to give it the chance to shine like it was intended.

I had no clue what its contents were and it really didn't matter. I was going to, "save this soul!" When I got home I placed it on the can opener with

anxious anticipation! The whirr of the can opener finally penetrated the metal lid to reveal . . . peaches!!!

I let out a school girl squeal I swear! I ABSOLUTELY LOVE PEACHES! What a treat to open this can and be greeted by one of my favorite fruits. And so to think the can was damaged when the contents were still good . . . and sweet. God must have smiled, because at that moment the sunshine beamed in my kitchen window. I knew in my heart there was a lesson. I have been damaged; we all have been damaged to some degree. I am not living the life I dreamed about when I was a kid. However, the damage that I have



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suffered has made the contents of my heart so much sweeter, so much more compassionate, so much more humbled and so much more in pursuit of Jesus! I have been looked down upon and judged by many who have seen my missing label and they have slapped their own label on me!

I have wanted to say so many times to so many people, "Don't judge too quickly. *My damage does not define me, but it is refining me.*" I may sometimes be at the bottom of life's bin, but Jesus paid as high a price for those of us at the bottom as he did for those



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who are proudly displayed on the top shelf! I'm just as worthy of love and happiness as the next guy!

It made me think of you and how you must feel like damaged goods sometimes, and I just wanted you to know that you are **NOT damaged goods!!!** You are still sweet and good, just like that can of peaches!! Don't give up on yourself because of all the bad in your past. Accept Jesus in your heart and you will do good with the rest of your life!

Don't let the labels that others have slapped on you define you... I know you are creating your new label as we speak and I can't wait to see what it looks like or what's inside the can!



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