

# Huckleberry Scones

By Dana Buck

**A** *lways be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

*1 Peter 3: 15-16*

I've heard it said that accepting Christ as savior, that's the easy part. Walking daily with Christ as Lord, now there's the challenge! Huckleberry Scones is a story we all can relate to. When the time comes, will we be able to "give the reason for the hope that we have?"

There was an educated man  
Who pursued enlightened truth  
With stacks of books each day he'd sit  
In a local bistro booth

He'd read and sip a cup of tea  
As pages turned and turned  
Absorbing and reflecting on  
The knowledge he had learned

Till one day he closed the cover  
Slammed it shut with some resolve  
He had tallied up the answers  
And felt his ignorance dissolve

To have the world and all its questions  
Known once and for all  
To stop the search and set aside  
The intellectual brawl

He really felt quite giddy  
As he raised his cup alone  
And decided he would celebrate  
With a huckleberry scone

He waived the server over

Took five dollars from his clip  
His mood was so triumphant  
Why, he might even leave a tip

She came over to his table  
She was young, still in her teens  
And he noticed on her uniform  
Her name tag said "Christine"

"Christine, this is a special day"  
"I'll have another cup of tea"  
"Please bring a huckleberry scone"  
"In fact, please bring me three"

"Wow" she said, and with her towel  
Wiped up a watery ring  
"Is it possibly your birthday?"  
"Or did you win that lottery thing?"

"Better" came his quick reply  
Toned with great satisfaction  
"For I've uncovered life's great truth"  
"And all its interaction"

"I've put away the fables"  
"All the stories and traditions"  
"That have undermined and thwarted"  
"Intellectual ambition"

"Biology, geology"  
"Psychology and physics"  
"These are the cosmic architects"  
"Religion merely mimics"

"The debate 'tween God and science"  
"I've now overcome that schism"  
"And rejected dim theology"  
"For enlightened atheism"

Curtailing then his diatribe  
He'd meant no disrespect  
For he noticed now the golden chain  
And cross around her neck

"I apologize if I've offended"  
"Or caused you any grief"  
"In airing my opinion on"  
"My new found firm belief"

"I've been immersed in gleaning what"  
"These volumes have provided"  
"And when it all came clear to me"

“Well, I got a bit excited”

“No worries” smiling, said Christine  
“My feelings are quite safe”  
“For I’m impressed and must admire”  
“The deep conviction of your faith”

Her smile never waivered  
Nor did her joyful tone  
“I’ll be right back with tea” she said  
“And huckleberry scones”

As she moved off he found himself  
Perplexed and quite disturbed  
And these emotions soon transformed  
To angry and perturbed

“Is she so dull in intellect”  
“That she can’t even see”  
“That faith’s the very thing that I’ve”  
“Rejected totally”

“I marvel at the simpleness”  
“The Pablum so prodigious”  
“Residing in the minds of those”  
“Who say they are religious”

“I cannot be misunderstood”  
“By a mind that’s second rate”  
As she returned he steeled himself  
To speak up and set her straight

“See here Christine” as she approached  
“The observation that you made”  
“And comment from your point of view”  
“The one about my faith”

“I believe I’d made it crystal clear”  
“Through my intensive study”  
“That faith retards enlightened thought”  
“And makes it dull and muddy”

“I presume you didn’t understand”  
“My pithy observations”  
“And so I thought I’d rectify”  
“Any lingering obfuscations”

“Not at all” Christine replied  
As she set down the scones and tea  
“Why faith is just believing in”

“The things that you can’t see”

“When it comes to science”

“I don’t count myself a scoffer”

“I just happen to believe”

“That all those theories have an author”

“Knowledge is an orphan”

“And intelligence a waif”

“If we don’t see we all employ”

“Some measurement of faith”

The depth of this girl’s reasoning

It took him by surprise

And he saw a chance to influence

And to evangelize

“Your point on faith’s well taken”

He commenced his reasoned lecture

“But knowledge supersedes”

“Our superstitions and conjecture”

“We’ve all five basic senses”

“We can hear, touch, taste, smell, see”

“Beyond this there’s no proof”

“And proof is where our faith should be”

“God, he’s a creation”

“Meant to explain the unexplained”

“A concept that biology”

“Evolved within our brains”

“When science gives us answers”

“The foundation knowledge brings”

“We should embrace these higher truths”

“And put away the childish things”

He was satisfied he’d reached her

Put her arguments to rest

So the reasoned depth of her response

He never could have guessed

“It’s interesting that you refer”

“To leaving childish things”

“For the Apostle Paul, he wrote those words”

“In first Corinthians”

“If all of life is just confined”

“To biological senses”

“And to that dimension everything”

“Reduces and condenses”

“Then nothing is eternal”  
“Nothing sacred, nothing blessed”  
“Just molecules and atoms”  
“Randomly all coalesced”

“And concepts such as beauty”  
“Honor, love must be explained”  
“As random firing neurons”  
“Birthed and dying in our brains”

“If all we have is what we know”  
“And nothing lasts beyond our death”  
“Then all value starts when we are born”  
“And dies with our last breath”

“Compassion, pity, sacrifice”  
“Become colossal wastes of time”  
“As do duty, valor, courage”  
“In pure Darwinian design”

“Instead be self-indulgent”  
“Be self-centered, self-absorbed”  
“For in only pleasing flesh”  
“Is there a semblance of reward”

“There’s another piece of scripture”  
“Something else the bible said”  
“You can eat, drink and be merry”  
“And tomorrow wake up dead”

“That’s a very dismal outlook”  
He retorted, now disturbed  
“I feel you’ve taken out of context”  
“My philosophy, my words”

“I believe nothing’s eternal”  
“And all that’s sacred is a myth”  
“The perpetuation of our species”  
“Is why we all exist”

“The noble traits that you have listed”  
“They developed over time”  
“As up evolution’s ladder”  
“We ascended and we climbed”

“They create a strong community”  
“Bring homo sapiens together”  
“As we bypass other creatures”  
“Those with scales or fur or feathers”

“Virtue isn’t proof”  
“Of a divine, inspired creator”  
“But rather evidence that our”  
“Genetic modeling is greater”

He leaned back in his chair  
Convinced he’d set the proper tone  
He took a sip then of his tea  
Also a bite out of his scone

Christine retained her smile  
With her serenity unbroken  
Impressed with the well-reasoned  
Words her customer has spoken

As she fashioned her reply  
The words she felt she should impart  
She found them tucked within  
The deepest reaches of her heart

“God can’t merely be reduced”  
“To what our senses understand”  
“What we smell or taste or see”  
“Or just can carry in our hands”

“There’s another piece to humans”  
“You can’t touch it; you can’t hear it”  
“Yet its every bit as real”  
“It’s that piece we call the spirit”

“God speaks to us in ways”  
“Beyond those limited by flesh”  
“The spirit is the holy place”  
“Where he and we can mesh”

“Those virtues that I spoke of”  
“Like honor, love, compassion”  
“Are what leads me to believe”  
“That we are in his image fashioned”

“I know that in myself”  
“Redeeming qualities are thin”  
“Yet I find them in abundance”  
“When I find myself in Him”

“I may never have the power”  
“To persuade or change your mind”  
“Only you can write your story”  
“And I can only tell you mine”

“I’ll leave you now with this”  
“If it turns out that you are right”

“When my life is finally over”  
“I’ll just fade into the night”

“On the other hand if I”  
“Turn out to be the one correct...”  
She just lifted up her eyebrows  
And on the table set the check

For the first time in his life  
He didn’t have a thing to say  
Christine smiled and said to him  
“You have a blessed day”

His elbow on the table  
And his hand upon his head  
He considered what he’d heard  
And all the teenage waitress’s said

He made a thoughtful face  
One of those contemplative looks  
Then he ordered up more tea  
And reopened all his books

The New Testament is full of admonitions to keep ourselves pure in actions and thought and to equip ourselves to stand against temptation and opposition. But, if we don’t see the whole picture, we may assume that these instructions are simply for our own well-being. They are for our good, but they are also so much more than that. In the Book of Acts 1: 8, Jesus says very clearly “...*you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*” Jesus has chosen us to be his voice and the living testimony of his redemption and grace. Faith is not a spectator sport. When our number is called, will we be ready? And, what does it mean to be ready?

It is simply this: to be in intimate relationship with Him; to open ourselves up, allowing Him to fill us to overflowing with his presence. We get to know Him through his word, through fellowship and through prayer. When we know Him, that moment of confrontation does not have to terrify or disable us. In Matthew 10: 19-20 Jesus says “...*do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the spirit of your Father speaking through you.*” Make that promise yours, and you WILL be ready when the time comes. Just be sure and remember what Peter said, “...do this with gentleness and respect.” Amen.