

Buckets Full of Treasure is a Christian devotional book that will touch the hearts of women of all ages. This book will encourage others to praise Him, listen for God's voice, and see His hand at work in their lives.

## **Buckets Full of Treasure**

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# Buckets Full of Treasure



*Michelle Sink*

- foreword by Dr. Linda Felker

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## Broken, But Usable

*“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.”*  
*Psalm 147:3*

I walked on the beach; then, I sat and watched my kids run between the ocean and the sand, and then to the pool, and back to the sand. We made sand castles, and ate picnic-style. We splashed in the water, and threw the beach ball, and ran back and forth on the beach. Life just does not get any better than this.

I decided it was time for a walk, and I asked if anyone wanted to go with me. No one seemed eager to go with me, so I figured it would be another walk alone. That was fine with me. My quiet time is usually spent in conversation with my Father. We have some of the best talks.

I started out, and within seconds, I heard feet pounding behind me. I turned to see Mackenze running toward me. He decided he needed a break from his sister and wanted to walk with me. He is usually such a daddy’s boy; but every now and then, he decides he loves his Mom. Those are the times I relish and try to take advantage of.

We started down the beach and he found the first few shells. I looked and found a couple. Further down from us, the beach was a little more crowded, and it was hard to actually see the shells among all the kids, surf boards, buckets, and shovels.

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We continued along and Mackenze decided he was going to look for shark's teeth. He talked on and on about something he learned on the Discovery Channel. I listened, like only a mother can. I did not care what he talked about, as long as he talked to me.

As we began to get out of the crowd, we could see a little better. We both spotted it. The wave had rolled back, and there in the sand was a large white shell. We both pointed and said, "*Look at that one!*" Excited, we ran toward the shell and as Mackenze picked it up, we realized the end had been broken.

"*Oh, it's broken,*" I said. "*I guess we won't be taking that one.*"

"*Why not,*" Mackenze piped in, "*it would make a great shovel.*" With that, he slid the shell into his pocket. We continued on our walk. I did not think anymore about the shell. After walking a little more, we were both tired, and our pockets were full. We made our way back to the beach chairs.

When we got back to the chairs, the others were there getting ready to build a sand castle. That is another one of my favorite things to do at the beach. It is not a beach trip unless we have built at least one sand castle.

We began gathering the cups and buckets and started filling them with sand. When I turned, I saw Mackenze. There in his hand was the broken shell. He was busy scooping up the sand and putting it into the smaller cups. I smiled and realized that the shell may have been ugly and broken to me, but he was able to see past that and realize it still had a use.

I remembered a class I taught about a year before. I had talked about that very thing, "*Broken, But Usable.*" I was a living testimony to those very words. I had been broken, but I was still being used by God. I could feel Him working in my life every day.

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There were times I felt useless and the world may have looked on me as ugly and broken. But I knew God was not through with me. You see, it is in our brokenness that God's light is able to shine through. The world may think we are finished. They may be ready to throw us out. But God takes our broken pieces, puts them all back together, and fills us with His love. It is then we are able to be used for His glory.

*“Lord, thank You for healing me. Oh God, I know all too well what it feels like to be broken and feel useless. But, You picked up those broken pieces and gently put me back together and I thank you for mending me, filling me, and ultimately using me. Lord, let me see past the brokenness of others and show them You are the healer and You are not through with them. Lord, I know it is in my brokenness that I am in total surrender to You and You can be glorified.”*

## Something Greater Lies Ahead

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11*

I was sitting in the sand, watching my kids play, and watching the seagulls glide through the air waiting to pounce on anything thrown to them. I decided I needed to walk. My bottom half was about to go numb from sitting so long.

About that time, my son came up and plopped himself down in the sand beside me. He propped his elbows on his knees and his hands on his chin to hold up his droopy head and stared out toward the ocean.

*“What’s wrong?”* I asked.

*“I can’t find any good shells or sharks teeth. This isn’t a good beach,”* he said.

*“Well, where have you looked?”* I asked.

*“Right here,”* he said.

*“Well, sometimes we have to step outside of where we are to find something we don’t have. And that requires a little more effort,”* I replied.

Now, do not ask me where that came from. But I was feeling rather profound that morning. He just looked at me like he did not know what I was talking about, and I urged him to go walking with me.

*“Why don’t we walk a little and see what’s up ahead.”*

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*“I don’t feel like walking,”* he said.

*“Then you’ll never know what lies ahead,”* I replied.

We sat there on the beach staring at the ocean. I had been as profound as I knew to be. He still had not gotten it. I guess it was too much for a nine-year-old to accept. Hopefully, one day he will understand. If he does not, he will miss out on so much in life.

We watched the rest of the gang play until we decided to call it a day. We never knew if those sharks teeth were further up the beach. We never knew if there were better shells lying ahead. Just what was out there, waiting for a little brown-eyed boy to find?

How sad. What do we miss because we are too afraid to step into the unknown and what greater things lie ahead?

I am reminded of a beautiful song by one of my favorite singing groups. The words of the song are about faith, and the kind of faith it takes to get up, get out, and grab Jesus hand. Faith like the disciple had when he leapt out of the boat and walked across the water to Jesus. The unknown is a scary place. It requires a lot of faith and courage. But He promised to be with us.

I worry that my children will settle for less out of fear of the unknown. I pray that I have given them the foundation they need; a foundation that reminds them They have a Heavenly Father that will go with them when they decide to step out by faith into the unknown and see what He has for them and their future.

I pray I will be an example to them, and that I can step out, in faith, and accept the calling He has placed in my heart.

Something greater lies ahead for all of us.

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*“Lord, thank You for walking side by side with me each day. I know Your word says you have plans for me. But sometimes, the unknown is a scary place and sometimes my faith is not strong enough. Oh, God, help me to remember You only want what is best for me and You are in control. Help me to not be afraid so I can step out and receive the something greater that lies ahead.”*

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