

## **The Laity Minute by Kelly Price**

I have a confession to make. Summer is not my favorite season. I am that person who loves the crispness of fall, the softness of winter, and the scent of spring. However, there is one thing I really, really, REALLY love about summer which I will never tire of.

### **THE ICE CREAM MAN.**

I have loved the ice cream man ever since I was a kid. And now, I am lucky enough to live in a place where he comes by occasionally. All I have to do is listen for him. My husband says I cannot hear thunder but can hear the ice cream man a mile away.

Most days, I am sitting in my office working. And then, I hear it. I am not necessarily listening for him because I never know exactly when he will drive by. But, then all of a sudden, in the distance, I hear it. I hear the music. It plays a cute little tune and a voice says, "Hello!" to let everyone know he's in the vicinity. Then, the race begins. I run downstairs, grab some cash from the ice cream man stash, which is located near the front door, run to the garage, open the garage door, and run outside to meet him all in time for when he arrives at my house. As you can imagine, this takes some time, coordination, and urgency on my part. When Andy is here, he says he knows the ice cream man is on the way due to the fact that it sounds like a herd of wild elephants running through the house.

Unfortunately, there has been a time or two when I didn't make it. I was not listening and working on my computer when he drove by. I cannot tell you how sad it made me.

We are often told to be still and listen for God. We are told that if we just listen, God will speak to us. What if God sang a little tune and a voice said, "Hello!" to announce God was getting near. That would be so easy! Just like the ice cream man, we would know when God was going to tell us something and it would be hard to miss. But, sometimes, if we are not paying attention, like me on that day I missed the ice cream man, we would miss what God was trying to say to us.

So, what are we to do since God does not have a van with pictures of Sponge Bob ice cream on it with a loudspeaker playing a song? Well, we can be aware. We can be aware of the things around us which show us God is talking to us. God's message may be found in the quietness of the woods or it may be found in a noisy restaurant. It could be anywhere at anytime. It may be unexpected or maybe you have a feeling that God is trying to talk to you.

Every once in a while, I hear the ice cream man song, but for whatever reason, he does not turn into my neighborhood. Maybe he had somewhere else to be or he was at the end of his day. It is for some reason I do not understand. The timing for ice cream just was not in the cards that day. But, God doesn't have somewhere else to be. God talks to us in a way we can understand and God's timing is always perfect.

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Listening is not always the easiest thing in the world to do. But, thankfully, God knows us better than we know ourselves. When it is time, God will shout, "Hello!" and appear over the horizon. Other times, we may only hear God in the distance. And that's the sweetest thing of all.

Peace,

Kelly