THE MINISTRY OF LOVE!

How much trouble just a little unbelief and lack of obedience can cause!

-But a happy ending!

Illustrated by Nehemiah. Edited by Nehemiah & Rachel. Proofread by Ephesians L.A.
Maria and I were about to go down to lunch one day but we were late, so...

Honey, please go down ahead of me and start ordering so we won't keep the boys so late serving us.

I had a sudden check about this.

Honey, I feel that if I leave you alone even for that short a time, someone is going to show up for your own services.

But she didn't believe me.

I'll be right down, honey.

You should come right away, OK?

But the incident which seemed to be the final straw which broke the camel's back.

One of the top waiters, Joseph, had no sooner firmly and safely settled me in my dining room chair than he had shot out of the dining room on some pretext and was immediately knocking on my darling's door!

By Father David from No 538  
(Written May, 1974.)
Contrary to all our previously-agreed security rules of years' standing, thinking it was merely the maid, she'd quickly opened the door without even asking who was there, and Joseph pushed his way in, to her stunned surprise. Only then did she begin to believe what I had warned her and to be sorry she had not obeyed.

Joseph had already shut the door tightly behind him and was demanding her services, threatening to be angry and cause trouble if she didn't yield. Of course the moment he had disappeared I had known what was going to happen and the staff also, but it was too late to interfere without making a scene which could have caused even greater embarrassment to us all and even some possible violent reactions on either hand. And I knew it was all over upon his joyful return.

Whereas with the others Maria's services had always been obviously with my permission to manifest my own love for them and to show them how great God's love is, with Joseph it had been stolen without my knowledge at the moment, and I did not like this.
This seemed to put an end to our ministry of love in this particular field. It nearly totally spoiled the whole concept of sacrificial loving service for the sake of helpfulness in spreading joy and love, and made it look like her ministry of unselfish love was merely a mêlée of selfish lust.

If there was anything good we had learned from it all, it was how much terrible trouble one little sin of unbelief and disobedience can cause, even to the point of ruining an entire ministry in a particular field!

But a few, thank God, had received it by faith. One of these was Carl.

Hallelujah! All's well that ends well. Our labours of love in our ministry of love were not in vain. We were later to learn to my delight that her sessions with Carl were to result in one of the cutest little baby boys you ever saw! -- Praise the Lord -- Our reward for our labours of love in the ministry of love. 'Love never fails.' Try it. 'You'll like it.' God bless you and make you a blessing in the ministry of love!

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