



## A SON AND HIS FATHER

Recently I found myself walking on the beach at sunset, as I often do. Beside a boardwalk, a father and son were gazing up at the setting sun. The father walked into the waves, and his young son stood on the shore, impatient. As I walked by, the father came out of the waves and said, “I feel silly, a middle-aged man searching for sand dollars.”

I smiled and said, “I am an older woman doing the same thing.” We laughed and he returned to the waves. I stood in the surf, my net digging deeply in search of shells.

His son called out to him, “Come on, Dad, let’s go to McDonald’s. We can buy sand dollars and sunset postcards on the way home.”

With these words, the father emerged from the waves, put his arm around him and said, “Son, there are some things that money can’t buy. You have to search for the things that have the most meaning.”

The son shrugged his arm off his shoulder.

A few minutes later the father leapt out of the water with a large sand dollar in his hand. “Here son, take this to your mother and wish her a happy birthday.”

“Wow!” he exclaimed and ran off to a dune, clutching the treasure in his hand. The father cried out after him, “and son, don’t forget to watch the sunset.”

Let us pray for one another as we continue to be filled with awe as we look at the setting sun, as we embrace one another with love. May we be like the father on the beach, diving deeply when it would be easier to stand on the shore, risking looking silly, as a sometimes cynical world smirks, because these things always remind us that ‘wow’ is worth waiting for.



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*“God on the Gulf Coast” is a seven-day retreat guide from Sister Shirley Miller about finding God in unexpected places.*