



GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE PRAYERS

Props:

- Clothing rack
- Standing mirror
- Prayer #1 - sweater shrug - boring, neutral, too small with TAG "Simply Bless"
- Prayer #2 - coat - tailored jacket, lots of detail, bling, calls attention to itself with TAG "Details Etc."
- Prayer #3 - big, poncho/cape, freedom with TAG "His Way Unlimited"

Narrator: Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Goldilocks. You may remember the story about how she once visited the home of three bears. She made herself at home in their house, and when the bear family came back, they were not happy. But Goldilocks was just searching for something that would fit her. Something not too hot, not too cold, not too hard, not too soft, not too big, not too small. The perfect fit is tough to find. And what do we all do when the going gets tough? Of course, we go shopping!

On her mission to find a prayer that would fit her, Goldilocks happened upon a new outlet store. Surely there would be something comfortable, supportive and just her size.

Saleslady: Hi, how are you? How can we help you today?

Goldilocks: I've been all over town looking for just the right prayer. It needs good coverage to keep me warm and dry, yet breathable so I don't feel stifled, and of course, comfortable and stretchy. And I need it to fit any occasion. Can you help me? I don't know if what I'm looking for even exists.

Saleslady: *(eyeballs her up and down)* I think I've got a prayer that would work for you. It's neutral, it's one-size-fits-all so size won't be a problem, and it's super easy to use for any occasion. *(brings out a sweater shrug that is clearly too small and plain boring color).* *(sales tag "Simply Bless")*

Goldilocks: "Simply Bless"--I've heard of that brand. But, I think that's gonna be too small. *(she tries it on)* It doesn't cover what I need it to cover. In fact, it hardly covers anything.

Saleslady: No, no, the tag says one size fits all. This prayer works for every occasion. For instance, co-worker issues "bless my co-worker;" child at college "bless my child at college;" conflict with your husband "just bless that man." These prayers won't stretch you at all--in fact you won't even know its there. And its faith cost is very low. It requires little to no faith on your part.

Goldilocks: *(keeps trying it on, and barely gets her arms in it)* Oh man, I don't know about this. It may be a good value, but I'm willing to extend a little more faith. I don't want to settle for this without seeing what else is out there.

Saleslady: *(brings out a tailored jacket with detailing and bling)(sales tag “Details, Etc.”)*
How about something with a little more pizzazz that reflects your personality? You know what you like, you know what will work for you. This little number from Details, Etc. may be just the ticket. It is highly tailored to your wants and desires, with particular attention to detail. That's the prayer you need. Lots of your own personal unique style and details. Don't leave anything to the imagination. Rely on your own understanding because who knows you better than you? In addition to the tailoring, you need lots of detail--stitching, embroidery, buttons, bling, sequins. If you can think of it, if it makes sense to you, make sure you include it in your prayer. It's all about YOU. You know what you want, and you need to make it clear. This has got a little bit of everything and would definitely make you feel like you're writing your own ticket.

For instance, you need a job, so this tailored prayer will detail what job you want, where, when, how much, how long a commute, flexibility, days off, profit sharing, benefits....the whole shebang. Or should I say “Sha-bling!”

Goldilocks: Wow. I've heard of prayers by Details, Etc. *(tries it on, and it fits)*. And this does have a lot of detail. But I just don't feel comfortable in this. There's something about it that is too pushy and presumptuous. The details are too restricting. I'm not sure I'm the best judge of how to make this prayer appropriate for my specific situations. Prayer is not supposed to be all about me, is it?

If I buy this prayer, what's going to happen if it is missing something? What if I didn't know all the options available and I get it wrong? What if I thought it would work for a certain situation but I'm missing something important. Or I don't really see the big picture. Maybe I don't know what's best for me. I'm not sure I have enough faith to pull off this kind of prayer.

Saleslady: I see what you mean. That prayer does presume that you can determine what is best on your own. In the end, your own understanding may restrict your options and confine your prayers to only what you can ask or think. Your own understanding may limit you in the end. Let me bring out another prayer for your consideration.

(saleslady brings out another jacket/poncho type, tag “His Way, Unlimited”)

Goldilocks: Whoa, that prayer looks really BIG!

Saleslady: Yes, isn't it fantastic? Notice that you've got all this room to move and stretch yourself. It doesn't restrict you, it's not binding. It's comfortable because the maker of this item, “His Way, Unlimited” exclusively uses a type of **miracle** fabric that somehow fits everyone perfectly. It may not be what you think you need OR it may be more than you

can imagine needing, but it can be worn for absolutely every occasion. The manufacturer’s reputation is flawless. Look at the freedom it gives you. You don’t need to make the decisions.

Goldilocks: *(tries it on, admire herself in mirror):*

Saleslady: I love that on you. It just screams BIG possibilities. The sky is the limit.

Goldilocks: Are you sure? I’m not sure I have enough faith for this prayer. I like it, but do I dare ask for something so BIG and bold?

Saleslady: Absolutely. Go BIG or go home, girl. And this manufacturer doesn’t just make empty promises - He backs it up with a lifetime warranty that guaranties BIG results. Other manufacturers can’t make this claim. Check out the testimonials on YELP from other customers who have experienced the impossible with this prayer.

Goldilocks: The more I wear it, the more I do like this. It’s me. I’m going to choose this BIG prayer. I’ll give it a try in some impossible situations.

Saleslady: Okay, take it with you. Remember, you only need a tiny bit of faith to pull off that look. You can return it, but I don’t think you will want to. It may not work as YOU expect, but wear it a few times to some different events , and be sure to wait for the outcome before you make up your mind that it isn’t working for you. Just trust the manufacturer. A BIG prayer requires patience. It’s a mystery, but He does adapt to all sizes, shapes and issues.

Goldilocks: How much faith do I need for this, again? I want to pray BIG, but I don’t know that I can afford it.

Saleslady: That’s the beauty of this. You only need a little faith and the confidence to believe in the manufacturer’s wisdom.

Goldilocks: Okay! I’ll take it. Thank you so much. I’m excited to see where this big prayer will take me. I’m leaving those small “bless” prayers behind, and I’m not going to take a prayer tailored to my own style. I’m going to trust this BIG prayer to cover and accentuate every one of my functions and occasions. And I’m going to expect BIG things to happen.

Saleslady: I don’t think you’ll be disappointed. Do you want me to wrap it up for you?

Goldilocks: No, I think I’ll just wear it out.

Narrator: Well it looks like Goldilocks’ outing today was a BIG success. She found, not what she thought she wanted, but something BIGGER. She’s leaving the mall today with the confidence and boldness to pray BIG and the peace that comes from trusting a BIG God.