

*Precious Pilgrim,*

*I just talked to my mother on the phone. She told me that yesterday she went to a luncheon and that a seventy-nine-year-old lady died in her arms.*

*"Mama, what did you do?"*

*She answered, "I acted like a grown-up."*

*In awe, I said, "Ohhh!"*

*Grown-up - gosh that's a hard concept for the youngest in the family to comprehend. I've always understood Peter Pan's retreating back to Never-Never Land. "Wendy, forget it! I'll take the lost boys and Tinkerbell and flying any day over your grown-up world!" -- makes total sense to me.*

*Grown-up, what does that mean? I know at forty-one, I might need to consider this term - not necessarily adopt it, you understand, for I am the youngest and the cutest and I like that position.*

*But what about understanding it? "I'll try - Lord - I'll try - just for a little while." I guess if I had to pick a "grown-up" to study, it would have to be John the Baptist. He amazes me. This man would not be someone you would want as a dinner partner. Besides having peculiar eating habits, I bet he didn't participate in trivial chit-chat. I bet sparks came out of him - left and right - cutting through phoniness. It would be worse than when I had the dancer Barishnikov as my dinner partner and I was as cute as a Southern Belle could be, and he just*

*yawned and kept looking around. My ESP told me he was thinking, "Jessica (Lange), where are you? Let me out of here!"*

*I think John the Baptist would have gotten up and left - for this was a man with a mission - driven. He had a purpose that so forged his life that he knew his goal and went for it - 100%. I mean, "Go for the Gusto" is a weak statement when you think of this man!*

*He's like a runner who runs as fast as he can, with all his might, then hands the baton to the next runner. "He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30. That's an amazing statement to me. It is totally foreign to every message we receive in this "me" oriented world - but it does make sense in the light of Jesus.*

*I'm starting to experience this "decreasing" myself with my daughter - she's a beautiful young woman of twenty-two. I used to show her how to put on make-up, she now shows me. I used to show her how to cook, she now shows me. And I'm sure when she has children, she'll tell me how to take care of them. It's fun. It's the way it should be. "He must increase, but I must decrease."*

*I think that's what being a "grown-up" must be - letting go - letting God. When John the Baptist was in prison, all he wanted from Jesus was assurance - not freedom - but assurance. Matthew 11:2-6: "Are you the Christ?" And Jesus responded by having His disciples tell John what Jesus was doing - everything which the Old Testament foretold.*

*Mama was a "grown-up" yesterday. I think that lady got a decreased Mama, which allowed an increased Jesus to shine through. The lady went from one person's arms into another pair, similar, but larger.*

*Lord, may I grow-up? May I decrease and You increase?*

*Your sister in Christ,*

*Lucy*