



January 2015 - *What are your Turkish Delights?*

In C.S. Lewis's story, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the English schoolboy, Edmund, on his first trip to Narnia encounters the White Witch or in her terms, "The Queen." Through questions she soon learns what best to tempt him with so that she can coerce him into turning against his siblings and ultimately Aslan, the true King of Narnia. Place yourself in the scene as Lewis writes,

"It is dull, Son of Adam, to drink without eating," said the Queen presently. "What would you like best to eat?"

"Turkish Delight, please, your Majesty," said Edmund.

The Queen let another drop fall from her bottle onto the snow, and instantly there appeared a round box, tied with green silk ribbon, which, when opened, turned out to contain several pounds of the best Turkish Delight. Each piece was sweet and light to the very center and Edmund had never tasted anything more delicious. He was quite warm now, and very comfortable.

While he was eating the Queen kept asking him questions... and he never asked himself why the Queen should be so inquisitive... At last the Turkish Delight was all finished and Edmund was looking very hard at the empty box and wishing that she would ask him whether he would like some more. Probably the Queen knew quite well what he was thinking; for she knew, though Edmund did not, that this was enchanted Turkish Delight and that anyone who had once tasted it would want more and more of it, and would even, if they were allowed, go on eating it till they killed themselves. But she did not offer him any more. Instead, she said to him,

"Son of Adam, I should so much like to see your brother and your two sisters. Will you bring them to see me?"

"I'll try," said Edmund, still looking at the empty box.

"Because, if you did come again—bringing them with you of course—I'd be able to give you some more Turkish Delight. I can't do it now, the magic will only work once. In my own house it would be another matter."

"Why can't we go to your house now?" said Edmund. When he had first got onto the sledge he had been afraid that she might drive away with him to some unknown place from which he would not be able to get back; but he had forgotten about that fear now.

"It is a lovely place, my house," said the Queen. "I am sure you would like it. There are whole rooms full of Turkish Delight, and what's more... I want a nice boy whom I could bring up as a Prince and who would be King of Narnia when I am gone... you are much the cleverest and handsomest young man I've ever met. I think I would like to make you the Prince—some day, when you bring the others to visit me."

"Why not now?" said Edmund. His face had become very red and his mouth and fingers were sticky. He did not look either clever or handsome, whatever the Queen might say.

Like Edmund, we don't look very attractive when we succumb to sinful temptation. What are the "Turkish Delights" with which the devil seeks to seduce you?

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 (ESV)

¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Harper Trophy: New York, 1978, pp. 38-40.