



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light...” John 3:16-19

I cannot imagine the anguish a parent must experience at the abduction of their child.

Though cautious of the possible pain, I would ask you to imagine the horror of having your own child kidnapped at birth.

Oh, that sinking in your bowels as the stench of panic trespasses through the hospital halls. The invading heat against your face at the betrayal of all eye contact. The deafening beat of your heart as you silently scream to hear what no one can bring themselves to whisper...“She’s...gone.”

With reckless abandon you would give all that you have and all that you are, in life or death, to pursue your lost one. Weeks, months, years – it wouldn’t matter. Any door, any shadow, every rumor; beat down, pushed back, unearthed to see her rescued... to see her home.

Now, imagine that long awaited phone call. Nearly fourteen years of dreaming and aching for this moment. You push through the pounding in your ears to hear them say it again... “We’ve found her!” You race across town toward a scribbled address elated and angry at the insanity of five thousand thirty-two days of endless dusk giving way to a dawn lurking just around the corner.

Oh, the ecstasy of joy that floods your soul as you fight your way through the cameras and uniforms, nearly oblivious to the couple stooped in the back seat beneath the police lights, to sprint down that dark hallway, in hope – surreal hope – for that embrace never known and yet always missed. What joy! What irresistible joy!

...for you.

But, what about for her?

Though you know the truth – that today is the day of her rescue. For her it is the day of her kidnapping. Sure there is a strange familiarity as she listens to your voice tell stories of great longing and unceasing love, but that life, now so wrong, is the only life she has ever known.

It too must sound strange when a Christian tells a friend that they need to be saved – rescued. “Humble yourself.” “Surrender.” “Die to the only life you’ve ever known to live a new life with God.” But, if that friend could sit down and look through the family photos, she might catch a glimpse from God’s perspective. She might see him as Heavenly Father, who has given all that he has and all that he is to see us be rescued – to see us come home.

In the beginning, our Heavenly Father created humanity to share in the joy of relational fellowship with him. Our first ancestors chose to do life on their own terms, thus sentencing each of us to the hereditary spiritual disease of sin – separation from our Father. In essence, at birth, each of us is kidnapped by sin and raised as if we belonged to it. We do not! Since that first rebellion, through the overarching metanarrative of history and in the intimate grind of life, God has pursued us, and in Christ, has given all, that we might be rescued.

If you struggle today in the bondage of a life apart from God – regardless of your perceived success or failure in that bondage – I pray that you might gather the courage to listen for that strange yet familiar voice of your Heavenly Father, and dare to let him bring you home.

If you rest today in fellowship with God, I pray that you might exercise a fresh and gentle kindness when helping that lost one embrace a reality they have never known...and yet...always missed.

“...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15

“So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.” 2 Timothy 2:22-26



To continue the conversation, email
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