

The Band of Rescuers

January 15th, 2012

Recognizing Royalty

For I was an hungry, and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in: naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came unto me. And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, **you have done it unto me.**

Matthew 25:35-26,40

Hudson's Solution

September 16, 2008

Hudson, our little 3 ½ year old boy, heard Leslie and I talking about orphans in Haiti the other day. We were working on a plan to go down there and visit and we were hoping to bring Hudson. So he started asking questions. "What's an orphan, Mommy? What made them orphans, Daddy? Can we bring them back here and have them live with us?"

I have been deeply moved over these past couple days watching Hudson's childlike passion unfold for these precious children in Haiti.

He is so startled by the reality that there are children in this world that don't have a mommy and a daddy. And he desperately wants to share his personal mommy and daddy with these little ones.

Last night he declared, “we need to make room for these orphans, Daddy!” And he set up beds for orphans all throughout our house. Each bed consisted of a blanket, a pillow, and a stuffed animal donated from Hudson’s personal collection.

I walked into my bedroom last night and there on the floor was one of Hudson’s baby blankets, along with a pillow and Hudson’s favorite stuffed animal doggy. He was willing to give up his very best for this little orphan he didn’t yet even know.

As I was putting him to bed last night I observed three different “orphan beds” neatly arranged upon the floor of his room. It was amazing to see the personal sacrifice he is willing to endure to help these orphans. To him, there is simply no question about it – if little orphans need homes – then look no further than our home. If little orphans need a mommy and daddy then why not take the perfectly good mommy and daddy in our home and make them the mommy and daddy to a whole bunch more.

Hudson has challenged me to rethink my approach to this orphan crisis. He is willing to give up everything precious in his life to see these little ones helped. His best stuffed animals are given to the cause, his personal mommy and daddy are thrown in to the kitty, and every extra square-foot within his tiny room is offered up for the sake of the fatherless.

As I tucked him in last night, Hudson said, “Know what Daddy?”

I said, “What shnuggle-bunny?”

His left eyebrow raised as if an amazing idea was finding wings within his mind, and he said, “If we bring these orphans into our family then they won’t be orphans anymore!”

May we all regain the simplicity of a child in order to see what really must be done. For it’s only the children that still cry. They feel the injustice, they know that something is out of whack when a little child is left to fend for themselves.

Hudson is ready to fit three little orphans in his room. How many orphan beds do you have room for?

The Obvious Solution is Just too Obvious

Christianity - The Great Inconvenience

I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out. And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

Job 29:12-17

The Job 29 Report Card

10 Heroic Actions of a Christian

1. I delivered the poor that cried
2. I delivered the fatherless
3. I delivered him that had none to help him
4. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me
5. I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy
6. I was eyes to the blind
7. I was feet to the lame
8. I was a father to the poor
9. the cause which I knew not I searched out
10. I broke the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

For I was an **hungry**, and you gave me meat: I was **thirsty**, and you gave me drink: I was a **stranger**, and you took me in: **naked**, and you clothed me: I was **sick**, and you visited me: I was **in prison**, and you came unto me. And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you

have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:35-26,40

The Matthew 25 Report Card

Grade yourself before the Judgement Seat

- ❖ The Hungry
- ❖ The Thirsty
- ❖ The Stranger
- ❖ The Naked
- ❖ The Sick
- ❖ The Imprisoned

The Life We Desire

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am . . . then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Isaiah 58:8-12

1. your light shall break forth as the morning
2. your health shall spring forth speedily
3. your righteousness shall go before you
4. the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard

5. you shall call, and the LORD shall answer
6. you shall cry, and he shall say, Here I am
7. your light shall rise in obscurity
8. your darkness shall be as the noonday
9. the LORD shall guide you continually
10. the LORD shall satisfy your soul in drought
11. the LORD shall make fat your bones
12. you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.
13. your children shall build the old waste places
14. you shall raise up the foundations of many generations
15. you shall be called, The Repairer of the breach
16. you shall be called The Restorer of paths to dwell in

Context, Context, Context

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then . . . If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then . . .

Isaiah 58:6-7, 9-10a

The “If” prior to the “Then”

1. If you loose the bands of wickedness
2. If you undo the heavy burdens
3. If you let the oppressed go free
4. If you break every yoke
5. If you deal thy bread to the hungry
6. If you bring the poor that are cast out to thy house
7. If when thou see the naked, that you cover him

8. If you hide not yourself from your own family
9. If thou take away the yoke (of oppression)
10. If you take away the putting forth of the finger
11. If you take away the speaking vanity
12. If you draw out your soul to the hungry
13. And you satisfy the afflicted soul, then . . .

The Seeming Contradiction

Are we saved by works or by grace?

- The Work of the Gospel is not what saves us, Jesus saves us. It's His Rescue Work that Delivers our souls.
- The Work of the Gospel is the outflow of a Life transformed and rescued by Jesus Christ. It is the outward evidence of a life indwelt by the Great Rescuer Himself.

Discipleship 101

1. The Word of God
2. The Gospel
3. Honor
4. Intercession

Depraved Indifference

Being Made Strong to Be Poured Out

The Appropriate Use of Strength

Ordered to both win the day and protect the weak

- Advanced or Van Guard
- Main or Middle Guard
- Rear Guard

Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9

The Life Guard

A body of select troops, whose duty is to defend the person of a prince or other singularly valuable persons

The First Sermon on This Stage

You Know What Kind of Person I Am?

October 9, 2008

My 3-year old little boy, Hudson, is at the ripe age for cute quotes. But what's fun is he's moving beyond the cute comments oriented around just the basic structure and facts about life, you know, like, "Daddy, did you know that the sun doesn't snore when it sleeps?" and he's entering philosophical territory, where he's beginning to comment on right and wrong, equity and justice, mercy and the overall perceived value of life. Listen to the one he offered on Tuesday of this last week:

He was dead serious walking through the grocery store and he stated matter-of-factly, "You know what kind of person I am? I'm the kind of person who sees owies and fixes them."

Then, It was absolutely adorable to watch him become a doctor, build a doctor's office out of his bedroom, and set our little 1 ½ year old girl Harper on the floor for a check-up.

He was convinced she had an owie on her head that needed fixing. And she wasn't so sure he was correct.

I keep coming back to Hudson's grocery store announcement:

“You know what kind of person I am? I’m the kind of person who sees owies and fixes them.”

My little boy has begun to discern between three very distinct sorts of people.

There are people that see owies and fix them

There are people that see owies and don’t fix them

And there are people that for some reason, just can’t see other people’s owies and as a result don’t fix them.

The question that keeps dancing through my head is, “Dear Lord, of which sort am I?”

I’m happy to say, that there are times that I see an owie, and like the Good Samaritan man, I actively respond to fix it.

However, I must admit, there have also been times when I have seen the owie and kept walking. I’m shamed to say it. But it’s true.

And in the past couple years, in awakening to so many of the major owies that countless millions around the world are suffering from, I realize that, in many ways, I’ve also proven blind to owies and, as a result, have done nothing to help fix them.

In the book of Job, Chapter 29, Job is describing himself. And his description is rather amazing. In fact, I could almost say that in essence he is saying, “You know what kind of person I am? I’m the kind of person who sees an owie and fixes it.”

Listen to Job:

I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.

And I broke the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

That also sounds like someone else I know fairly well . . . Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ sees every owie and he has predetermined to comfort all of us that ache and fix whatever it is that ails our bodies and souls.

Jesus never leaves an owie behind. And neither should we.

If we are to carry His Name and represent His manner and method in this world, then owies must become our business.

May we stand up in our homes, our businesses, our churches, and our neighborhoods today and shout, “You know what kind of person I am?” And then, by the grace and empowerment of our God, demonstrate the answer in living color before them all.