

THE GOOD NEWS FREE

Just Keeps Coming

“...GO HOME TO YOUR FRIENDS, AND TELL THEM WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU AND HOW MERCIFUL HE HAS BEEN.” MARK 5:19

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HOOPS From Heaven

My children and some of my older grandchildren grew up watching *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood* which aired on television for the first time 50 years ago. A documentary on the life and ministry of Fred Rogers was released this year called “**Won’t you be my neighbor**”. My oldest daughter, Heather, and I went to see it. It was spectacular.

“*Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*” suc-

cessfully spoke to children about important topics, such as going to school, making friends, dealing with siblings -- and even difficult topics such as divorce, disabilities and bullying. As a child, Fred was a little on the “chunky” said and the bullies all made fun of him. When he was in the seminary, he decided he didn’t want children to suffer at the hands of bullies for something they had no control over, the way they look. One of the songs he wrote and sang on his daily show was, “**It’s you I like. It’s not the things you wear. It’s not the way you comb your hair. But it’s you I like, the way you are right now. The way deep inside of you. Not the things that hide you. It’s you I like.**”

Mr. Rogers devoted his life to teaching children. “There isn’t a whole lot we

can do about our outside sort of growing. Some of us grow tall and some of us grow short. Some of us have one color skin and some of us have another,” he said. “But no matter who we are on the outside, it’s the inside that matters,” he continued.

“I’m proud of you, you know that. I hope you do,” he shared in the final episode.

Then, in true Mister Rogers’s fashion, he burst into a song: “I’m proud of you, I’m proud of you, I hope that you are proud of you, too.”

God has called each of us to serve Him in a different way and Fred Rogers answered his calling beautifully. I can almost hear God saying to him, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” **Matthew 18:1**

“At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a little child, and had him stand among them.

And he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little

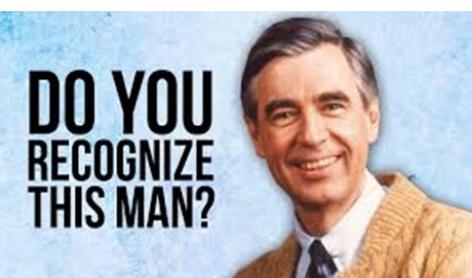


children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.”

*In His Love,
Diana Boring
San Felipe, Texas*



Accepting the Gift

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **John 14:6**

Have you ever considered all that Jesus has done for you? For just a moment, think about it. Jesus, God’s only Son, willingly left His place in heaven to live among us on earth. Not

only did He come to earth and fully identify with us, His creation, He also lived perfectly, died sacrificially, and rose bodily in order to afford us an opportunity to spend eternity in heaven with Him. To put it simply, He came to pay a debt that was owed for something He never did – sin. We are the ones who have sinned; yet, He covered the payment.

Now, we each have a choice. Either we accept the free gift of salvation that Jesus provides, and thus experience His power and forgiveness for eternity. Or we choose to ignore that gift and spend eternity separated from Him. Jesus has already done the work. It’s all about what we choose to do with what Jesus has already done. Have you accepted His gift?

The gift of salvation is a free one. But we must first confess who Jesus

is and what He has done. Pray right now, even if you have done it before, that you acknowledge who Jesus is and what He has done for you. Proclaim Him as Lord, and experience the power of His Spirit in your life.

Help others understand what the free gift of salvation is all about!

*Ed Young
Grapevine, Texas*

What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?

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A cheerful heart is good medicine



A frog goes to a fortune teller to find out if he will ever be lucky in love.

The fortune teller reads his palm and tells the frog, "I have good news and I have bad news. Which would you like to hear first?" The frog asks for the good news first. The fortune teller says, "You are going to meet the most beautiful girl, who is going to be very interested in you and will want to know all about you. She will want you to open up for her and you will give her your heart."

"That's great!" says the frog. "But what's the bad news?"

"Well, you're going to meet her in Biology class."

restaurant to get one. There were none to be found.

John then ran to a department store a quarter-mile away and returned with a hanger. After a few attempts, he got the door open and we climbed in. As we sat there, soaked and cold, he stuck the hanger under his seat.

With a smug grin, he said, "Now if this ever happens again, I'll have one handy."



Bill, Jim, and Scott were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story sky scraper. After a long day of meetings they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room. Bill said to Jim and Scott, let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, and Jim can sing songs for 25 flights, and Scott can tell sad stories the rest of the way.

At the 26th floor Bill stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor Jim stopped singing and Scott began to tell sad stories. "I will tell my saddest story first," he said. "I left the room key in the car!"



Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal, they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. Holmes said: "Watson, look up and tell me what you see."

Watson said: "I see a fantastic panorama of countless stars."

Holmes: "And what does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a moment: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."

"Why? - What does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes was silent for a moment then spoke: "My good Watson... someone has stolen our tent."



There once was a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had worked so hard for his money and he wanted to take it with him to heaven. So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him. An angel hears his plea and appears to him.

"Sorry, but you can't take your wealth with you."

The man implores the angel to speak to God to see if He might bend the rules. The man continues to pray that his wealth could follow him.

The angel reappears and informs the man that God has decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him. Overjoyed, the man gathers his largest suitcase and fills it with pure gold bars and places it beside his bed. Soon afterward the man dies and shows up at the Gates of Heaven to greet St. Peter. Seeing the suitcase St. Peter says, "Hold on, you can't bring that in here!" But, the man explains to St. Peter that he has permission and asks him to verify his story with the Lord. Sure enough, St. Peter checks and comes back saying, "You're right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting it through."

St. Peter opens the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims, "You brought pavement?!"



One rainy evening, my husband, John, and I emerged from a restaurant only to find that he had locked the keys in the car. He insisted he could open the door with a wire coat hanger, so we went back to the

FUN WITH GOD'S WORD

Use the scriptures below to find and circle the **BOLDFACED** words. UNDERLINED WORDS will be found together.

Z	D	W	V	L	I	K	L	N	D	I	J	I	H	T	I	B	F
S	I	E	O	U	T	D	O	A	M	G	A	V	E	D	X	E	O
T	S	G	U	R	S	A	V	O	E	S	R	C	O	E	T	L	S
E	H	D	O	T	L	U	E	H	W	E	S	Y	F	N	T	I	A
P	E	R	I	S	H	D	D	V	O	L	L	D	I	R	R	E	V
L	P	R	O	A	T	I	J	N	T	A	E	S	U	E	R	V	E
E	D	G	Q	U	A	D	E	D	N	E	S	D	V	P	M	E	R
B	A	E	I	B	G	D	S	R	N	T	K	E	G	A	O	S	S
E	R	T	N	V	U	H	E	O	T	I	O	J	O	E	N	I	A
C	K	E	Y	M	K	T	E	P	L	H	Y	S	N	M	L	H	V
A	W	D	T	T	E	S	M	E	W	R	U	D	E	D	Y	T	I
U	R	E	O	S	U	D	A	A	K	I	U	D	S	K	S	N	U
S	D	S	B	H	N	D	N	P	T	R	N	R	P	H	O	I	R
E	O	S	L	C	G	M	J	O	E	O	P	L	Y	G	N	R	M
I	G	A	E	C	N	A	T	S	C	U	C	R	I	C	M	O	A
A	E	L	W	U	R	D	E	O	S	P	R	O	P	H	E	I	Y
J	D	S	E	C	I	D	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	A	Q	R	H

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16-18 NIV

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A Lesson in Humility

Jesus... made Himself of no reputation... He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5, 7-8

Deflating inflated egos is so important to God that he offers to help.

He helped me. I recently spent a week on a book tour. We saw long lines and crowded stores. One person after another complimented me. For three days I bathed in the river of praise. I began to believe the accolades. All these people can't be wrong. I must be God's gift to readers. My chest puffed so much I could hardly see where to autograph the books. Why, had I been born two thousand years earlier, we might read the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. About the time I wondered if the Bible needed another epistle, God shot an arrow of humility in my direction.

We were running late for an evening book signing, late because the afternoon signing had seen such long lines. We expected the same at the next store. Concerned, we phoned ahead. "We are running behind. Tell all the people we'll arrive soon."

"No need to hurry," the store manager assured.

"What about the people?"

"Neither one seems to be in a hurry." Neither one?

By the time we reached the store, thankfully, the crowd of two people had tripled to six. We had scheduled

two hours for the signing; I needed ten minutes.

Self-conscious about sitting alone at the table, I peppered the last person with questions. We talked about her parents, school, Social Security number, favorite birthday party. Against my pleadings, she had to go. So I sat alone at the table. Big stack of Lucado books, no one in line.

I asked the store manager, "Did you advertise?"

"We did. More than usual." She walked off.

The next time she passed I asked, "Had other signings?"

"Yes, usually we have a great response," and kept going.

I signed all the books at my table. I signed all the Lucado books on the shelves. I signed Tom Clancy and John Grisham books. Finally a customer came to the table. "You write books?" he asked, picking up the new one.

"I do. Want me to sign it?"

"No thanks," he answered and left.

God hit his target. Lest I forget, my daily reading the next morning had this passage: "Do not be wise in your own eyes" (Prov. 3:7).

When you're full of yourself, God can't fill you.

But when you empty yourself, God has a useful vessel.

*From Cure for the Common Life
Max Lucado
San Antonio, Texas*

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God Protected Me

I got down on my knees I knew I had so much to say,
Thanking God for everything He protected me from today.
The things that He knew I couldn't handle or see,
Sickness and sorrows and so many reasons to grieve.
Worries and fears that wasn't mine to bear,
God protected me because He loves me and cares.
Happiness and joy He always brings to my life,
Letting me know that with Him everything will be alright.
I can smile and share Gods love where ever I go,
Trusting Him for He is with me and I want everyone to know.
I have peace in my soul that only my Father can give,
Because I know God protects me every day that I live.
So blessed and so wanted by my Father above,
I'm so grateful that I'm covered by His never ending love.

*Written By Eva Dimel
Inspired By God©*



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Whatever
you do, do
it with all of
your might, as
working for
the Lord, not
for men.

Colossians 3:23



Fearlessly Facing Eternity

Joe Allbright is a fair and fearless West Texas rancher, a square-jawed, rawboned man with a neck by Rawlings. In Andrews County, where I was raised, everyone knew him.

One of Joe's sons, James, and I were best friends in high school. We played football together. (More honest, he played while I guarded the team bench.) One Friday night after an out-of-town game, James invited me to stay at his house. By the time we reached his property, the hour was way past midnight, and he hadn't told his father he was bringing anyone home.

Mr. Allbright didn't know me or my vehicle, so when I stepped out of the car in front of his house, he popped on a floodlight and aimed it right at my face. Through the glare I saw this block of a man (I think he was in his underwear), and I heard his deep voice. "Who are you?"

I gulped. My mind moved at the speed of cold honey. I started to say my name but didn't. *Mr. Allbright doesn't know me.* My only hope was that James would speak up. A glacier could have melted before he did so. Finally he interceded. "It's okay, Dad. That's my friend Max. He's with me."

The light went off, and Mr. Allbright threw open the door. "Come on in, boys. Food is in the kitchen."

What changed? What made Mr. Allbright flip off the light? One fact. I had aligned myself with his son. My sudden safety had nothing to do with my accomplishments or offerings. I knew his son. Period.

For the same reason, you need never fear God's judgment. Not today. Not on Judgment Day. Jesus, in the light of God's glory, is speaking on your behalf. "That's my friend," he says. And when he does, the door of heaven opens.

Trust God's love. His perfect love. Don't fear he will discover your past. He already has. Don't fear disappointing him in the future. He can show you the chapter in which you will. With perfect knowledge of the past and perfect vision of the future, he loves you perfectly in spite of both.

Perfect love can handle your fear of judgment.

Max Lucado
San Antonio, Texas

From Come Thirsty
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Due to several increases in printing costs and postage since we began the paper 13.5 years ago and the 75 percent decrease in advertising income and donations, we will no longer be able to mail out copies of **The Good News Just Keeps Coming**.

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3:5-6

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