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Oh, How He Loves Us

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Oh, How He Loves Us

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

—Go to Hell. It's a quote we've all heard, whether it's been said to us or someone around us. I heard it the other day when it was said to someone wearing a Rays' jersey by a Red Sox fan. The Rays fan responded with, —I can't... God loves me."



Steven K. Walker

***** *Oh, How He Loves Us***

“Go to Hell.” It’s a quote we’ve all heard, whether it’s been said to us or someone around us. I heard it the other day when it was said to someone wearing a ‘Rays’ jersey by a Red Sox fan. The Rays fan responded with, “I can’t... God loves me.”

That made me think. Why is there a perception that God only loves the ones who are “saved” or that God can’t possibly love anyone or else He wouldn’t say we are sinners and send people to Hell? If God truly loved us and didn’t think we were mistakes, then why is there even a need for Jesus? The first thing to remember is that we are not mistakes. Also, God sends us to Hell because He loves us. Hold up, that sounds drastic, did I really just say that? Yes, because it’s true. You see God gave us choices. He gave us the choice to have love. If we’re forced to love someone, how can we truly love? God understands this concept. That’s why he gave us free will. He loves us so much that we can choose to walk with Him or walk a part from Him. You see God loves us so much that if we choose to walk with Him, He loves and respects us enough to let us walk with Him forever, into Heaven. If we choose to not walk with Him, He loves and respects us enough to let us walk without Him forever. This does not mean He will just let us go away from Him. God will give you signs of His love. It’s up to us to make decisions. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus so that we can be with Him.

I went on the Upstate New York Fall Campus Crusade for Christ Retreat a few weeks ago. Going into it, I didn’t know what to expect. It consisted of college kids from several universities throughout New York State as well as adult leaders. It’s amazing how people can take life for granted. We can see food and complain. We can listen to music and criticize it. God gives us that choice. At this conference the speaker, Drew Hyun, gave a great example of God’s love that fits perfectly here. He said that he was on a camp ground and asked people to talk about the visual surroundings and what they thought of God’s creation. As they went through the group a blind person came up. She

said, "I thank God for making me blind, because when I get to Heaven, Jesus will be the first thing I see." She doesn't complain about not being able to see, she uses her blindness as a gift.

I worked at a summer camp for children with special needs. I had a camper who was confined to a wheelchair and was told he can never walk. He saw campers playing basketball or baseball and felt left out. He didn't complain though. I took him to the beach area and he said to me, "God said to me that I can walk can you help me?" I was hesitant. I had fully read the bio and medical reports given to me. He said, "Trust me." I was still not fully comfortable with it, until he said the words, "With God all things are possible. He loves me and you, he will not let anything bad happen." I unstrapped him from his wheelchair. He put his feet on top of mine and wrapped his arms around me asking me to walk. I walked backwards so he could know the feeling of walking forward. After a few minutes, I put his feet down on the sand and held on to his hands. I knew that if something went wrong, there was a good probability that I could get fired, but I trusted my camper and God. He took five full steps before asking to go back into the wheelchair. I asked how he felt and if he was okay. I will never forget his response. He said, "I couldn't walk, but God allowed it to happen. I may never be able to walk again, but I had asked God to allow me to walk just three steps. I didn't think He would answer, but I knew He loved me. I don't deserve His love, but He loved me enough to send an angel to allow me to walk." I have not had contact with this camper since he left that summer, but it greatly changed my life. My supervisors were split on my decision to let him try to walk, but through this camper, God was showing me His love.

I hope through reading this, you are able to see that God makes things happen for a reason. He shows His love to everyone. If it was easy for us all the time, no one would ever love anyone.



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