

ADOPTION - GOD'S IDEA

The same is true with me. I needed a rescuer. At 16, I realized that I could not rescue myself from struggles and sin and be good enough to stand face to face before God someday. Someone told me that there was only one way that I could be pure enough to stand before God. Just like Joshua, I needed a Rescuer...Someone Who had done all of the things necessary to pay the debt that I owed for my sin. In addition, I had begun to understand that my sin was a debt that I could not pay. The Old Testament Law of God required that the blood of animals such as lambs, goats, or pigeons must be shed as a payment for sin so that there could be forgiveness of sins.

So I learned on a particular day in July 1984, that someone did shed blood in order to pay for my sin. I learned that I needed to trust the work of this Rescuer; Whose Name is Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, and rest in His work done on the cross for my sins. (Romans 6:23)

That day, I put my trust in Jesus Christ and His work done on the cross on my behalf. (Ephesians 2:9 & 10) At that moment, I became adopted through Jesus Christ, as God's daughter. Ephesians 1:5 says, "In love, God predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will."

Joshua could not satisfy the demands of the laws to become our son. We had to take the initiative and do it all. He did not "do anything" to earn or deserve our love. We just loved him. We wanted him to be our son, so we did whatever it took to make him our son.

So, too, God wanted us to be His sons and daughters through Christ and He took the initiative to do everything necessary. Jesus left heaven at just the perfect time and came to earth---He packed His "travel bags" only He left all of His glory behind to become like us and walk among us. He had to make major sacrifices to adopt us. The "fees" He had to pay cost Him everything----His very life. I wonder what the angels thought of Jesus, the King of Kings, going to rescue a bunch of people with "baggage" and problems and bring them into His Home to live with Him for eternity. We did not do anything to earn Jesus' love. He is Love and because of this love, He opened His life and Eternal Home to us.

Just as we prepared a room for Joshua because through this adoption he would become our forever son, so Jesus is preparing a place for those He has adopted. (John 14:2 & 3). Just like Joshua, I do not really understand what desperation and hopelessness that Jesus has saved me from by adopting me. But, because Jesus calls me His own, I am forever secure.

Tears came to my eyes as I took Joshua for the first time out of the orphanage.....I humbly realized that the "rescue" that God called us to do was simply a picture of the Rescue He had done in my life almost 20 years earlier.

As Joshua has been in our home for over 6 months now, he has become accustomed to our voices and touch. He responds to us and us to him. He has so much to learn and someday he will begin to have an understanding of how far love took us so that he could be a part of our family. And isn't that just like us...we come to Jesus and hopefully we come to learn to recognize His Voice and respond to Him. Then, as we continue on, we begin to realize more and more profoundly, how far LOVE took HIM to RESCUE us and make us a part of HIS family.

Mike and Dede Wielhouwer live in Grand Rapids, Michigan and have two biological children (Grace and Cassie) in addition to Joshua. They are currently working with CAFA on their second adoption of a little orphaned boy named Caleb from Wanna House Orphanage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and hope to bring him home in May of 2005.