Daily Devotion #64

He Came to Save Us

***Luke 19:10 (NASB)*** *10  "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

If you have ever lost anything precious to you, you know how heart-wrenching it can be. You look and look and look and cannot find, and a piece of your heart goes with what you lost. Certainly, it’s that way when it is something valuable but how much more the heartache when it is a loved one.

When my mother died, I spent a lot of time concerned about her salvation. I remember having many talks with her about God and spiritual things over my lifetime. In fact, she was the one who told me I was either going to be a pastor or an undertaker, as she called it. When she was still living, we would laugh because God has had me in both roles over the years.

But the one thing I never was confident in was whether she was truly born again. I don’t remember her saying to me that she was confident that she had a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. I don’t remember her ever saying that she knew she was a sinner who needed the grace and mercy of God. I can’t recall a time when she said that she knew Jesus came to rescue her from the penalty of her sin. And that bothered me greatly. It bothered me for the obvious reasons. I wanted to make sure that she was in heaven, enjoying the blessings of God.

Then, the day before she died, I was sitting beside her bed doing all I could to talk to her and communicate with her. She had several strokes that left her unable to communicate audibly. And in those final hours she was unable to communicate at all. So, I was there taking a last opportunity to make sure that she knew Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

While I was sitting with her, my sister-in-law came in the room and showed me a little wooden cross. She said my mom loved that cross and they thought it would be nice to place it on her casket. In that moment I cried like a baby. Not just because I was overcome with the emotion of it all but because I needed some comfort from the Lord. The cross did that. I can’t say that I know for certain that my mother was truly born again, but what God gave me was the hope of knowing there was a good possibility.

I will be and am eternally grateful for the cross of Christ. It is a reminder that God is not the distant, uncaring, judgmental God that many people make Him out to be. He is a God of love who came to the earth to seek all who are lost in their own way of thinking and behaving. Lost in their attempts to figure out life and make sense of all the chaos. Lost in their unwillingness to humble themselves to the only One who can help them.

Jesus came to give His life as a substitute for our sin and all that separates us from knowing Him personally. His goal is not to beat people over the head and smash them into the dirt of inferiority and unworthiness. His goal is to open the hearts of all who will surrender themselves to Him as Lord.

He loves us beloved. Aren’t you thankful for the day that God showed you His love and care for you? Aren’t you thankful for the time in your life that He let you go your own way and seek your own will to prove to you that He is the only way to real life and real meaning and purpose?

His came to save the lost. Is that you? Are you lost in a life of figuring everything out for yourself? Are you lost in working your way to some kind of righteous standard and hoping God will be ok with it? Instead, just embrace Jesus as Lord. He came to save you because He loves you.