

Mornin' ya'll

Now We Know the Rest of the Story



He called his parents from San Francisco. "Mom and Dad, I'm coming home, but I've a favor to ask. I have a friend I'd like to bring home with me." "Sure," they replied, "we'd love to meet him." "There's something you should know," the son continued, "he was hurt pretty badly in the fighting. He stepped on a land mine and lost an arm and a leg. He has nowhere else to go, and I want him to come live with us." "I'm sorry to hear that, son. Maybe we can help him find somewhere to live." "No, Mom and Dad, I want him to live with us."

"Son," said the father, "you don't know what you're asking. Someone with such a handicap would be a terrible burden on us. We have our own lives to live, and we can't let something like this interfere with our lives. I think you should just come home and forget about this guy. He'll find a way to live on his own."

At that point, the son hung up the phone. The parents heard nothing more from him. A few days later, however, they received a call from the police. They believed a homeless man, that had been struck and killed by a car, was their son. The grief-stricken parents drove to the city coroner's office and then to the city morgue to identify the body. They recognized their son immediately, but to their horror they also discovered something they didn't know, their son had only one arm and one leg.

Are you outraged by the callousness of the parents? Have you judged them as harsh and unfeeling for the needs of someone who sacrificed so much for their country? Are you saddened by the plight of the young man who feels rejected and useless and unwanted?

The truth is many find it easy to love so long as it does not interfere with busy schedules. The parents in this story are like many today who find it easy to love those who are good-looking or fun to have around. Most can even accommodate a loved one who is handicapped. Our prayer should be, "Please help me to be more like Jesus".

But if we say this prayer, we will be challenged to reach higher and farther and longer and deeper, and there we will find Jesus who fed the hungry, touched the lonely, healed the sick, encouraged the downhearted, and showed God's compassion to the broken. He did this to glorify God. The end of the story could have been different if the parents had known their son was talking about himself. Now, you have a chance to change the rest of the story. You see, who you decide to glorify will make it end exactly the same or change it forever after the example of Jesus. The rest of the story is up to you.

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