

“He Now Showed Them the Full Extent of His Love....”

I remember, and I believe you do as well, when we were younger and did something we should not have done and were caught. Remember when our parents said something like this, “This will hurt me more than it does you”. I did not believe a word of it because I was on the receiving end and they were on the giving end. I deserved my punishment but, at the time, I could not imagine how this was hurting them more than it was me. Of course, this was not an issue to be argued because that would bring on another consequence just like the first. I eventually learned that sometimes it was best to keep your mouth shut. As a parent, I did learn how“This will hurt me more than it does you”.

On the flip side, I do remember a few times when I would do something for a neighbor just to be helping out. I do remember some times when my dad would ask me to wash the car or cut the grass and that was not a problem either. And then there were times when people would do something that was good for you and your family. That was always appreciated and especially nice. Good people doing good things and a blessing for all.

I sometimes just sit and think about stories from the Bible that I am attached to and the wonderful things that happened because of a meeting with Jesus. One such story is when Jesus travels into Capernaum and the Roman Centurion speaks to Jesus with a request. “just say the word” (If you want to revisit the story...Matthew 8:5-13. And a word was all it took.) Another favorite story is the conversation that Martha and Mary had with Jesus after the death of their brother. (John 11: 1-44. Pay very careful attention to verses 21-25. They are wonderful. Truly, the glory of God was revealed.) My last story. Jesus and the disciples were traveling toward the city of Nain. This is a story of a mother’s grief and Jesus response. (Luke 7:1-17. A story of great compassion)

I recently read a story that stirred my memories regarding raising a child. This story was written by a mother who had more than one child. Remember your growing up years? You played outside as hard as you could. Somehow you could get wet and it was not even raining. And when it was time for play to end and go back in the house.....remember?what was the one task facing you and you did not want to deal with it? Your mother or father did not want to deal with it either. Yes, clean up time. Bath time for mom was not as much fun as the children had playing outside. Cleaning up could easily become the chore of the day and the lady who wrote this story spoke of this difficulty. But eventually the bath would be over and the children would be dried off with a clean towel and.....they just never seemed to want to stand still but they were clean and they were dry and clean night clothes put on and that ordeal for that day was over. Then, a sigh of relief. Remember? Oh, a parent’s love.

I was visiting with my mother once and we attended church with her. On that day the pastor called for one of the men of the church to come forward. The man was seated up front where all could see. Not a word was spoken. The pastor took off the man’s shoes as well as the man’s socks. One foot was placed in a container of water and his foot was

washed. The foot was taken out and dried. The other foot was also washed and dried. Then the socks were put back on as well as the shoes by the pastor and the man was thanked and he took his seat. This was a very quiet time and a very humbling time for the pastor. It was a task that required a lot of patience. It was also time consuming. It was just like the times that we took cleaning up when we were younger.

Remember when the time for Jesus on this earth was coming to a close? It was before the Passover Feast. Judas already knew he was going to betray Jesus but before that happened, before Judas betrayalremember.....our Jesus ***“showed them the full extent of his love.”*** (John 13, NIV. Revisit this story) I know it was a humbling experience for Jesus and the disciples. I know this required a lot of patience for all involved. . I know it was a time consuming experience. But this is what it was and today this is what it’s all about... being a servant, being the example for others to follow, showing others the full extent of our love toward them.

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13:15 NIV)

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