
Words of Truth

She's An Amazing Masterpiece

By: Brian A. Yeager

Jesus was an amazing teacher. We can learn a lot not just from the content of His words, but also in how He delivered them. On one occasion, He chose to use a child to answer a question. Notice: *“At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea”* (Matthew 18:1-6).

As followers of Christ we are to be child-like in some ways. In the example of above, we learn to be like an innocent child in being humble. In an entirely different context, dealing with the abuse of spiritual gifts that have since passed (I Corinthians 12:3-13:13), Paul was inspired by God to write this: *“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men”* (I Corinthians 14:20). From that we learn to be like a child by not being malicious. Peter later was inspired by God to use a child as an illustration when it comes to desiring to learn. Notice: *“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”* (I Peter 2:1-2).

Outside of the word of God, one of the best instructors in my life has been my daughter. When Taylor was diagnosed as autistic on the end of the spectrum of mental retardation, that was hard to hear. In recent years the autism language was dropped from her diagnosis and now she is just considered mentally retarded. To many, this would be like a death sentence. To Katrina and I, it is an abundance of joy. For one, we know that at least we will spend eternity with one of our children. For Taylor has the permanent innocence of a young child. She is not capable of being malicious. She is not capable of reason. Thus, she cannot sin (James 4:17). While it is not comforting for her in this lifetime, it is certainly great news for her in eternity. One of the many things I look forward to in eternity is meeting my daughter without the physical restrictions that her illness has placed upon her in this lifetime. She is not lost, she just hasn't begun to live yet. Taylor is to me, an amazing masterpiece. She is perfect and always will be spiritually. I have learned a lot from her. I want to share some with you.

Lessons Learned From My Amazing Masterpiece

Let me first share with you the phrase “amazing masterpiece”. Several months ago Taylor got a flower like image to color. She spent hours staying within the lines. When she was finished, she said: “It is an amazing masterpiece.” I embraced her with joy. That was a large statement for her to make. I then looked upon her, in all of her glorious innocence, and told her: “Taylor, you are an amazing masterpiece”. God made us upright. It was mankind that sought out the way to pervert that (Ecclesiastes 7:29). Taylor is still as innocent as the day she was born. She has not sought out sin nor is she capable of doing so. This is where all of us in Christ must be to be saved (I John 3:1-10). Then we will be, through Christ, amazing masterpieces ourselves (I Peter 2:5-9).

Taylor’s thinking is pure, innocent. As Christians, we should look at her and see such thinking, for pure minds is what God expects from us too (Matthew 5:8 and II Peter 3:1). Such pure thinking changes the way you look at things (Titus 1:15). Before sin, Adam and Eve did not even recognize their nudity (Genesis 3:1-21). That is Taylor. She only knows to keep her clothes on because of years and years of us putting them back on her. Nudity to her is not the same as it is to those of us who have known sin.

In being a parent to Taylor, I have learned things that I read about in the Scriptures regarding dealing with people. I have learned to be long-suffering and to have forbearance (Ephesians 4:1-3). You see, when Taylor needs to learn something it is not because she is stubborn or wicked that she doesn’t learn it. It is that she needs to be taught by repetition and even then somethings are above her. She has taught me that repetition is often required for people to actually learn something (II Timothy 2:14-18 and II Peter 1:12-13). She has also taught me that not all people are able to learn or do the things you want them to do. Each of us are different in our abilities and therefore expectations cannot be the same (Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 12:41-48). Taylor has helped me in understanding you cannot use people as a standard by which you measure yourself or others (II Corinthians 10:12-18).

As I have tried to teach Taylor about God, we go outside and I point up and tell her that God is in the sky. She unquestionably accepts that marvelous truth. Taylor has shown me that even a broken mind knows our Creator. God can be seen if you look for Him through innocent eyes (Acts 14:17 and Acts 17:16-34). She has taught me to look up more often (Isaiah 40:26)!

Conclusion

Observe the children among us. See how carefree they are. See how they are unattached to the cares of this world. The purity you can see in young children is an amazing masterpiece. Their innocent ways, thoughts, love, affection, joy, and such the like are all things we as Christians are supposed to have (Galatians 5:22-26).