

Chapter 20

*Rescue those being led away to death;
hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say,
“But we knew nothing about this,”
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?
Does not he who guards your life know it?
Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?*
Proverbs 24:11-12

Rescue

Scott was a mild man who found a church home at West Hills Christian Fellowship. He was an usher at church and was well liked by everyone in the congregation. When the Pastor and church decided to begin an active pro-life ministry, Scott jumped in with both feet. He could be seen regularly at the local death center holding a sign. Once after encountering a demonstration by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Scott quipped, “I am pro-choice when it comes to eating meat.” As they further debated, the PETA folks, who were in favor of abortion, were confounded by Scott’s keen insight on the subject.

Although Scott was a peace-loving man, he could not be mistaken for a coward. While at home with his sister and nephews one day, his sister’s deranged ex-husband charged into the home wielding a knife. Scott did not hesitate. Unarmed, Scott placed himself between the assailant and his sister’s family. He was repeatedly stabbed in the neck, chest, face, and eyes while he fought for the lives of his family. The brutal attack lasted only a few moments before Scott collapsed, hemorrhaging from multiple stab wounds. However, Scott was able to buy enough time for his sister to quickly dial 911. Those precious moments of time were purchased with Scott’s life but it was just enough time to save the lives of his defenseless sister and her children. Scott selflessly intervened to stop the shedding of innocent blood, at the cost of his own life.

Scott lived and died a Rescuer. In his life he rescued children from execution at abortion mills. He did no less in his death. Jesus once said, “*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends*” (John 15:13). Scott, the Rescuer, lived and died a hero. More importantly, his life and death are a testimony to the way that all of us should act every day.

The Lord demands that we should “*Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter*” (Proverbs 24:11).

The Lord requires that we “*Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked*” (Psalm 82:3-4).

James defined true homage toward the Savior when he wrote, *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world”* (James 1:27).

Scott learned to defend the innocent through the preaching ministry of West Hills Christian Fellowship. He simply lived out the Word of God that was reinforced in his life through daily Bible readings. Isaiah 1 records a rebuke to those who pretended to be God’s people and lists a number of things that true believers should do. *“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead the cause of the poor and needy.”* It could be said of Scott that he had learned to do right. Scott sought justice, he rebuked the oppressor, he defended the fatherless, and he pleaded for the widow. Scott was a rescuer through and through.

Rescue, contrary to popular perceptions, is more than an act of sitting in front of the door leading to an abortionist’s death chamber: it is a way of life. We rescue when we use our mouths to speak up for the oppressed. We rescue when we fall on our faces before God and weep over the innocent blood spilled in our land. We rescue when we rebuke the baby killers and their minions. We rescue when we lay down our lives for the defenseless pre-born babies who go to their deaths every day. This is the pure and undefiled religion of visiting the widows and orphans in their desperate struggle for life.

The churches of our day are, like Gideon, threshing wheat in a winepress, as the evil in our land and in our churches increase. The truly repentant Christian will show the fruits of his changed heart by abhorring acts like those of the Levite and the Priest in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Desiring instead obedience to his Master, he will no longer allow himself to pass by on the other side when faced with the needy. He will start acting like the Good Samaritan. Jesus said that the man who was righteous and followed God’s decrees was the man who picked up the dying man from the road and aided in his recovery, all the while bearing the full weight and cost of his rescue effort. Is this not what the Lord means when He tells us to bear each other’s burdens and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves?

Rescue is action that flows from a transformed heart. Scott saw a need and fought hard for the lives of his family members. He did not need to go pray and fast before deciding if it was God’s will that he stand between the murderer’s knife and his innocent family. *“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”* (Isaiah 58:6). This was instead the “fast” that he observed as each knife jab plunged into his body.

Scott did not need to stop and read his Bible to find the perfect verse to tell him that he needed to face the deadly wounds. He became a living epistle as he bled there on the floor. Scott did not delay, hoping someone else would fight for him, and neither did he call his pastor to get permission. No, Scott dove in and rescued. For him, it was a

way of life and a way of death. Ultimately it is the way of the cross. *“Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it”* (Luke 17:33).

As Christians, we must be ever ready to sacrifice our own lives for others. When we signed our lives over to Christ on the day of our salvation, few of us understood the full implications of the fine print on the contract. It read in part, “Must be ready to esteem others higher than yourselves. Must be willing to lay down your life for others.” This is what Jesus meant when he said, *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Does this sound strange? To a non-Christian it will, but God-fearing men and women understand that the Christian life will appear strange to the people of this world. In order for one to live, he must first die. In order for one to be first, he must be the last. If someone wants to become great in the Kingdom of God, he must first become the servant of all. In order to become full, he must become empty. In order to gain his life, he must first lose it. This is the Christian way.

For believers, rescue is the marching order of the day. Jesus came with the ultimate rescue operation to save mankind from the weight of its sin. His victory over death and sin is fully manifest in our own lives only when we reflect His nature in our actions, that is, when we rescue.

The mission field is right in your hometown and the arena for service is within your own community’s gates where abortion-minded moms walk our streets and sit in our church pews. We must reach out to the women and men who believe there is no other choice than to shed the innocent blood of their own precious babies. Although the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects our rights to publicly speak out and distribute literature, it may not always be so. It may never be required, but we must be willing to sacrifice our jobs, homes, and the prospect of a so-called normal life for the cause of Christ and to rescue the babies slated for death.

In a nation whose laws promote abortion on demand (child-sacrifice), the price of rescue has often been high. Even so, very few have paid the price that Scott paid. Jail time, fines, and lawsuits await many a rescuer, but that price is small compared to the saints who have gone before us.

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. For in just a very little while, “He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.” But we are

not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved (Hebrews 10:32-39).

We must run this race to win. As Christians, we must not shrink back in the face of adversity, but should rather trust God to preserve and empower His people who walk in obedience. The Scriptures speak clearly. *“Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world”* (1 John 4:4). *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you”* (James 4:7). These are covenantal promises from the One who never breaks His Word.

There are those who have carefully worked out their excuses in life so that protecting their material possessions, their family’s comfort, their church routines, or the status quo of the world can be well argued from selected Scriptures. They raise their children thoroughly insulated from understanding their duty to engage the wicked culture in battle, only to discover that in doing so they have taught their children that Christ gives no power to overcome the world. Their only power is to build a self-serving wall that the world is always threatening to breach. After a life of building that wall, they find that they have no energy left to reach a dying world, to take up their cross, to spend and be spent for the kingdom, or to see the gates of hell come down. Our children must be taught through parental example that faith will overcome fear and grant strength to rescue a lost world for Christ. This is the lesson our children must see if we are to pass on a faith that has any relevance in their lives or in the world.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33).

Do not wait until you are lying upon your deathbed to examine your life’s accomplishments. Take a moment now to ponder the time God has given you here on earth and review your life’s work. What did you do with the days of your youth? What did you do with the gifts the Lord has provided to you? Were you a good steward of the your time, energy, resources, and the breath in your lungs? In the end, all that matters in life is what we were able to do for others in obedience to God’s Word.

Rescue today and rescue often. Make your life count for God. You will not live to regret the sacrifice or the impact your life will have on the world around you. Your presence at an abortion clinic as a sidewalk counselor or a prayer warrior may save a mother from committing murder and a child from being destroyed. At the very least, you will be a faithful witness for Christ.

The story has often been told of a grandfather and his four-year-old grandson. The two of them were walking on a beach the day after a great storm had blown through. The seashore was littered with thousands upon thousands of the little starfish that had been blown ashore by the high seas. As the two meandered down the sandy beach, the young boy would occasionally pick a starfish up and toss it back into the ocean. The boy’s grandfather lovingly asked the child, “Why bother throwing them back? There are so many dying it hardly makes a difference.” The boy looked with resolve at his

grandpa, and then fixed his eyes upon the starfish he gripped in his hand. “It makes a difference to this one!” he replied as he pitched the little creature back into the water.

Day after day, pre-born boys and girls “wash up on the shore” of the death camps of the nation’s abortion centers, driven, not by the tide, but by the pro-abortion culture. Acting upon the words of our Savior you can be their rescuer. You can make a difference in the lives of the pre-born, one at a time, as you stand in their defense, obeying the Biblical mandates to repent, rebuke, and rescue. May you be able to answer the questions about your life’s work, having faithfully discharged your full duty to God, with the same pride and dignity of a military veteran recounting his faithful service to his beloved country.

At Scott’s memorial service many from the community praised him for his selfless act of rescuing his family members from death. Although few of us will be called to expend our “last full measure of devotion” as did Scott, we all can follow his heroic example of obedient sacrifice by setting aside our personal comforts in order to rescue our pre-born neighbors.

And Jesus said, “*Go and do likewise!*”

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