

TAKE MY SON



A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of Art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of Art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and he grieved deeply for his Only son.

About a month before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands and he said:

Sir, you don't know me, but I am a soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly.

He often talked about you, and your love for Art. The young man held out this package and he said, "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting! The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man, who said his name was Tom, and offered to pay for the picture, and Tom said, NO, SIR! I could never repay what your son did for me! This is a Gift for you!

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later and there was a great Auction of his paintings. Many of the influential people gathered; excited over seeing the opportunity to purchase a painting for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel and he said, "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?"

There was silence...Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the Famous Paintings! SKIP THIS ONE!"

But the auctioneer persisted. "Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100? \$200?"

Another voice angrily said, "We didn't come to see this painting! We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts, etc., Get on with the Real bids!"

But still the auctioneer continued, **THE SON! THE SON! WHO WILL TAKE THE SON?**

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime Gardener of the man and his son, and he said, "I will give \$10.00 for the painting."

Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

The auctioneer said, "We have \$10.00, who will bid \$20.00?"

The crowd said, "Give it to him for \$10.00. Let's see the Masters!"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son.

They wanted the more worthy investments for their Collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel and said, "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10.00!"

A man sitting on the second row shouted! **NOW, let's get on with the Collection!**

THE AUCTIONEER LAID DOWN HIS GAVEL AND SAID, "I AM SORRY, THE AUCTION IS OVER."

Many people were saying, "What about the paintings?"

The auctioneer said, "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation, in the Will, and I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this Time.

Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the ENTIRE ESTATE, including all the paintings!"

THE MAN WHO TAKES THE SON TAKES EVERYTHING!

God gave His Son over 2,000 years ago to die on the Cross. Much like the auctioneer; The message to you today is: "THE SON, THE SON, WHO WILL TAKE THE SON?" Because you see, whoever takes the SON gets EVERYTHING! Jesus said,

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom!" Luke 12:34

"Father God, Jesus, is going to give His People the Whole of His kingdom!"

IN JOHN 3: Jesus teaches that we must be born again:

He said, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again (regenerated, conceived) he cannot see the kingdom of God." V3

Nicodemus whom he is speaking to, said, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" V4

Jesus said, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." V5

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh (human nature, carnally minded) and that which is born of the Spirit (Christ's Spirit, the Holy Spirit) is spirit." V6

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." V7

"The wind bloweth where it will, and thou hearest the sounds thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born (regenerated) of the Spirit." V8 This represents a Change.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth (commits, entrusts their spiritual well-being to Christ) in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life." V16

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through HIM might be saved." (Salvation means healed) V17

IN ORDER TO BE SAVED, you must make a decision to commit your life to Jesus and then come to Jesus and confess that you believe that He died on the Cross for your sins and confess something like this:

LORD JESUS, I am a sinner...please forgive me of every sin that I have ever committed in thought or deed...I love you and I want you to be my Master and Lord today...please come into my heart and change me and help me to live for you, from this day forward, I surrender my life to you, and I will learn and obey your Holy Word.

Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

