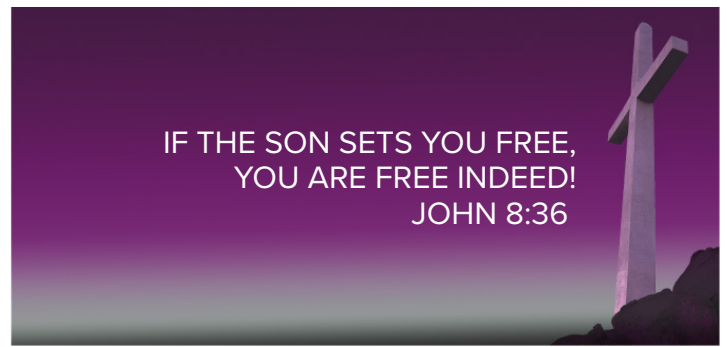


Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.” –John 6:37

Body language is a powerful way of communicating; it is sometimes more convincing than the words we speak. For example, someone may assure you that they have time to dialogue with you, yet by constantly looking at their watch, they are sending the opposite message. The same is true when someone says that we are welcome to visit, yet if we are not gladly received with opened arms, we will feel unwelcome in spite of the verbal assurances.

Jesus made sure that we understood that He welcomes us, and that He will never reject us. During His ministry on earth, He was accused of receiving the sinners, the outcasts, and the marginalized. He often extended His invitation to come to Him. God took the initiative to save us and to seek that which was lost. The truth about Him coming down from heaven is repeated seven times in John 6 (see verses 33, 38, 41, 42, 50, 51, 58). His actions loudly declare His love for the human race. And just in case someone thought themselves to be the exception, Jesus confirmed that anyone coming to Him will find out that He will never throw them out. The negative used in this pronouncement is emphatic; it is something like: “He will not ever reject, dismiss, repudiate, or turn down.” There is no crime so heinous, no addiction so dark, no shame so profound, no detour so distant, that would deem a person unwelcome by the Savior of the world. This extreme confirmation, that everyone who comes to Him will be accepted, is given even in the context of an unbelieving crowd (verse 36). Yet Jesus knows that many will come to Him, though not all, and everyone who does will be welcomed with His open arms. Furthermore, God the Father is in complete agreement with this salvific rescue: “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day” (verse 39). If you ever find yourself in a deep pit, wondering if God will accept you, come back to Jesus with confidence. He will surely, certainly, without a doubt, receive you with open arms!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 226.