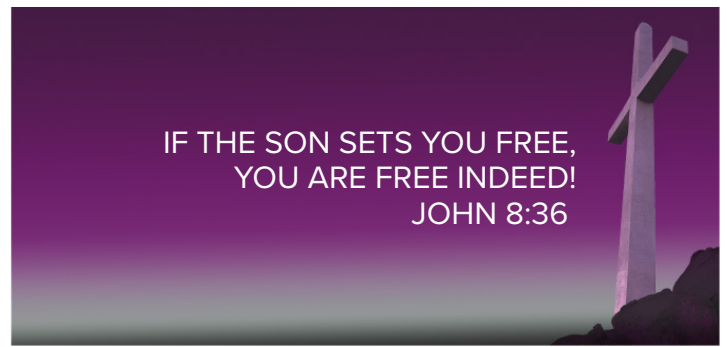


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“Observe how the lilies of the field grow. . . . I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.” —Matthew 6:28, 29

My mother loved nature. While driving, we might stop repeatedly just to marvel at a bird's nest or a flower that she had spotted on the roadside. We usually vacationed in nature; she saw God's glory in the vibrancy and beauty of creation. A few weeks before her passing, I was sitting on her bedside, and we talked about her memorial service instead of her pictures, she wanted me to display her photos of birds she had taken, which we did. She truly rejoiced in the beauty of nature, which declares God's love, care, and provision for His creatures.

When God created the world, He wanted His creatures to be surrounded by beauty: “The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food” (Genesis 2:8, 9). Can you imagine God planting trees pleasing to the sight, so that His children would delight in the surrounding beauty? I was amazed by this detail. We do the same for our babies, surrounding them with color and beauty. All the beauty in the world was created for our happiness and as a witness to His glory. He designed the fragrance of fields, the splendor of flowers, and the songs of birds. All for us! “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands” (Psalm 19:1). All of nature speaks of God's passionate love for us. From the beginning, He surrounded us with beauty, and when we rebelled against Him, He died to pay our ransom and to restore us to the beauty of Paradise. Jesus exhorts us to observe the splendor of the flowers: not even Solomon, the wealthy king, dressed like them. And He reasons with us: if God so clothes the flowers of the fields that only last a day or so, will He not take care of us, His beloved children? Of course, He will! God has done all that was needed for our eternal salvation and for our present sustenance. Cast your fear and anxiety aside! Enjoy His gift of beauty that tells of His constant provision for us.

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 51.