

jan 28

better

i found this little writing online the other day. no accreditation was really give and so i assume it is free to share with others. i hope all will find something in this that touches them as it touched me. enjoy.

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one day, i did something very unusual. i sat in a cafeteria while 5th and 6th grade students were eating lunch and cried. i didn't care who saw. i was upset about something, but it took more than that to make me cry. in fact, i did exactly what i always advise other people not to do. i thought about one problem and let it remind me of a lot of other problems, things in the past. i sat there and thought about every person i'd ever known who went through some traumatic thing that i thought there was some possibility i could have prevented if only i had done something a little differently.

there was dropping out of school, becoming drug addicts, getting evicted from houses, shooting up, getting pregnant before finishing high school, getting diseases, quitting church, getting involved in prostitution, suffering physical abuse, and going to prison for selling crack. all these things have happened to people i've known, people i had a chance to influence.

as if that wasn't enough, i didn't stop there. then, i thought about people i don't even know. starving kids in foreign countries, people who get murdered, abused, raped. people whose loved ones die. persecuted christians. little kids who get cancer. all the ugly things that happen to people in the world. and so yeah, i was crying, and i didn't care who saw. i was crying for everything and everybody, even the kids in that cafeteria, knowing some of their stories were sad or would be. yeah, this world's really messed up. so i asked, "God...can't You...do better than this?"

His answer was this. first, He reminded me that all those people i know, His love for them is infinitely greater than mine could ever be, so His heart is infinitely more broken than mine for them... then, He reminded me that all those people i don't even know, His love for them is that great as well. (how can He handle so much heartbreak...?) next, He gave us all a wonderful world to live in. everything in this world that's wonderful, every happy memory we've ever had...it's all from Him. not only that, but He gave us everything we need to know to keep our lives happy and everything we need to know so that after this life, we can live a perfect life with Him forever. it's all right here (in the bible). if only we'd read it, if only we'd listen...

if we ever doubted that anything He told us to do or anything He told us to NOT do was in our best interest, if we ever thought that maybe He just wanted to waste our time or ruin our fun, He proved He loved us too much to ever do that to us. HE DIED FOR US. He is smarter than all of us put together. He has more love

for us than all of us put together. everything He tells us to do is for our benefit, our peace, our joy, our fulfillment. everything He tells us not to do will only bring us sorrow and pain. yet, so many ignore His loving commands, choosing instead to follow our own ideas, the world's ideas about what will make us happy... so many people doing that, each of us doing that sometimes, that's what makes this world messed up. so God's question back to me, back to everyone: "can't you...do better than this?"

"but i'm only one person. what can i do?"

that's the question that we each need to ask ourselves.

here's what i can come up with. in a world of great darkness, i can be a small light when i reflect His light. Jesus said, I am the Light. when i feel discouraged, i can push forward, relying on Him, so that somehow, in my own unique way, i can bring God's love to a world that so desperately needs it.

"to all the ones i've wanted to save from sorrow but couldn't: i'm thinking of you tonight. i still love you, and i'm sorry. by trying to help, i have taken your burdens into my heart, and now a portion of them weighs on my shoulders as well as your own, but i don't regret trying..."

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can't we ALL do better? "nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house" matt 5:15

