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AUGUST 2025

WHO WILL TAKE THE SON?

Dear Chosen One,

There once lived a wealthy man and his son who shared a deep passion for collecting rare and priceless works of art. Their collection included masterpieces from renowned artists like Picasso and Raphael. Together, they spent countless hours admiring the beauty and genius of their collection.

Then one day, war broke out. The son enlisted in the military and went off to fight. He was courageous, but tragically, he was killed in action while saving another soldier. The father was devastated. His only son—his pride and joy—was gone.

Not long after, the father heard a knock at his door. Standing before him was a young soldier holding a large package. The young man introduced himself and said, “Sir, you don’t know me, but I am the soldier your son gave his life for. He was carrying me to safety when he was shot and died instantly. He spoke often of you and your love for art.”

The soldier then held out the package. “I know this isn’t much—I’m not a professional artist—but I believe your son would have wanted you to have this.” Inside was a hand-painted portrait of the father’s son, done by the soldier himself. Though it wasn’t a masterpiece by the world’s standards, the father was overwhelmed. The painting captured his son’s essence perfectly. With tears in his eyes, he thanked the soldier and offered to pay him.

“Oh no, sir,” the young man replied. “I could never repay you for what your son did for me. This is a gift.”

The father cherished the painting and hung it above his fireplace. Every time guests came to his home, he showed them the portrait of his son before any of the other valuable artwork.

Years later, the father passed away. News of the upcoming auction of his famous art collection spread quickly. Art lovers from around the world gathered with hopes of acquiring one of the valuable pieces.

On the day of the auction, the first painting on display was the portrait of the son. The auctioneer opened with, “We’ll start the bidding with this portrait of the son. Who will start the bid?”

There was silence. Then murmurs.

“Skip this one,” someone said. “We came for the famous pieces.”

But the auctioneer persisted. “Who will take the son? \$100? \$50?”

Again, silence.

Finally, an elderly voice spoke from the back of the room. It was the family’s longtime gardener. “I’ll give \$10. It’s all I have, but I’d like to have it.”

“Going once, going twice... sold for \$10!” the auctioneer announced.

“Now,” shouted someone, “let’s get on with the real artwork!”

But the auctioneer laid down his gavel and said, “I’m sorry. The auction is over.”

GOD'S SON JESUS IS STILL AVAILABLE!

Confused and angry, the crowd demanded, “What about the rest of the paintings?”

The auctioneer explained, “There was a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal it until now: *Whoever takes the son... gets everything.* The entire estate and every piece of art now belongs to the man who bought the portrait of the son.”

The Lesson

The author of this story is unknown, but I've taken the liberty to retell it for clarity and reflection.

How often do we overlook the value of what's right in front of us—especially when it doesn't meet our expectations or fit our mold?

This parable mirrors the way many people treat Jesus, God's Son. They seek miracles, blessings, or recognition, but bypass the One who holds the key to it all.

John 3:16 reminds us:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you inherit *everything*—the full package of salvation. This includes:

- Unconditional love
- Grace and mercy
- Eternal life
- The gift of healing
- The ability to forgive
- Restoration
- Divine favor
- Wisdom
- Spiritual insight
- And so much more

Matthew 6:33 says:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

God knows our needs, our flaws, and our desires. He promises not to withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11).

Even if you've made mistakes or feel unworthy, remember this: God *specializes* in using imperfect people for His perfect plans.

Consider These Biblical Examples:

- **Abraham** thought he was too old to have a child (Genesis 21:5).
- **Isaac** lied out of fear (Genesis 26:7).
- **Joseph** was falsely accused and imprisoned (Genesis 39).
- **Moses** stuttered (Exodus 4:10).
- **Rahab** was a prostitute, yet God used her to protect His people (Joshua 2).
- **King David** was an adulterer and murderer, yet he was called a man after God's own heart (2 Samuel 11).
- **Elijah** battled depression and wanted to die (1 Kings 19).
- **Job** lost everything, but God restored him (Job 42).
- **Peter** denied Jesus three times but became a pillar of the early Church (Matthew 26).
- **Mary Magdalene** was once demon-possessed but became a devoted follower (Luke 8).
- **Saul (Paul)** persecuted Christians but later preached salvation to the Gentiles (Book of Acts).

In Conclusion

If you feel like you've failed, gone too far, or fallen short—remember this: God isn't finished with you. He transforms coals into diamonds, caterpillars into butterflies, and broken lives into vessels of glory.

But it starts with one decision:

Will you accept the Son?

Because...

Whoever takes the Son—gets everything.