

16

16. CHURCH

LIAM'S MOTHER PULLS UP TO THE FRONT DOOR OF THE CHURCH WITH LIAM AND JAMIE IN THE BACK. LIAM AND JAMIE STEP OUT OF THE BACK OF THE CAR. LIAM'S MOM PULLS AWAY. LIAM TURNS TO JAMIE, AND REACHES OUT HIS HAND.

LIAM: (REACHING FOR JAMIE)
Come on, it will be fine.

Jamie smiles at Liam steps across and takes his hand. The two walk into the church.

Jamie and Liam enter a room where the group is already attentive to the pastor who has already started his lesson. Jamie and Liam slip in to the back row.

PASTOR: (SPEAKING WITH INTENSITY)
You must understand that your value does not come from what you have. It doesn't come from what you have done. Not what your friends say about you, or your family. Your value comes from God. You are God's creation! You are a Masterpiece! Your value comes from God, through Jesus Christ.

It was through Jesus you have been saved. Through Jesus you have been made new, your faults, your past, even your failures have been forgiven. You have been set free in Christ, freedom from your old self, and your past.

You see, Galatians 3:29 tells us that since we belong to Christ we are His heirs. And God's promise to Abraham belongs to us.

Our value, comes from this, we are Heirs to Christ. We are HIS family, His people, we are HIS. When we accept Christ we become part of His family. All else falls away and we inherit the kingdom of God.

If you have ever wondered if you had worth, or if you were valued... When you accept Christ into your life, you become a part of God's royal family. There is where your

(MORE)

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PASTOR: (SPEAKING WITH INTENSITY) (cont'd)
worth lies, there is where your
value lies...

Transition to Jamie and Liam after the service is over. Liam leads Jamie to the pastor. Several other students are talking to the pastor when Liam and Jamie approach.

PASTOR: (TO ANOTHER STUDENT)
Laughing) Are you serious!?! That's
awesome! (Pastor sees Liam
approaching) Hey, let me know what
he says to that! See ya next week!

Pastor then turns to Liam and Jamie.

PASTOR: (TO LIAM)
Liam! How's basketball going? Are
you going to make varsity next
year?

LIAM: (HAPPY TO SEE THE PASTOR)
If I keep practicing I just might!
(Liam's attitude changes to
serious) Hey, this is my friend
Jamie. Her family has just gone
through the loss of her brother and
she is really struggling.

Jamie is shy, she does not want to put everything out there at this time, and the pastor is picking up on it. Jamie begins to reel back, as though she is going to leave but stops when the pastor speaks to her.

PASTOR: (TO JAMIE)
That's right, I heard about your
loss. You are Jamie Adams then
right?

JAMIE: (ASHAMED)
Yeah. That's me.

PASTOR: (HURTING FOR JAMIE)
Come sit down with me.

The three walk away from the commotion and sit down in the front row of the room.

PASTOR: (SITTING DOWN)
So, tell me how are you holding up?
A loss like that is a terrible
thing to go through.

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JAMIE: (STILL GUARDED)
Fine, I guess.

Liam shakes his head behind Jamie in disagreement. The Pastor sees this.

PASTOR: (SOFTLY)
I understand in times like these it's difficult to see what God has planned for us. It is even more difficult to understand how anything good can come from something like this.

JAMIE: (CLEARLY UPSET)
How can God allow something like this to happen? Isn't He supposed to love us?

PASTOR:
He does love us. It is in times like this we experience His love on a very deep level. You see God knows the pain you are going through, He is walking with you during this time, and you are not alone. Take tonight for example. You could be doing anything else, but you are here. Why?

JAMIE: (CONFUSED)
Because Liam invited me?

PASTOR:
Yes, but why did he invite you? What was happening when he asked you to come here? What could you have done that God stopped you from doing? You see what I mean? There is a plan for you, your life is precious and has a purpose.

JAMIE: (INTERESTED IN HIS WORDS)
What, what could God want from me? I have nothing to offer.

PASTOR:
That is a great place to be. You see far too many people feel that they have to have something to offer to God. But in reality nothing we can bring before God is worthy. Only his son Jesus Christ
(MORE)

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PASTOR: (cont'd)
is worthy, but Jesus died for you.
So that when God looks upon you He
sees what Jesus did for you, and
not what you have to offer. Jesus
changes your value, your worth.

Jamie sits silently, wondering if this is true, if there is
a God who loves her even with what she has done.

PASTOR:
Listen Jamie, next week our group
is going to Youth Camp. Its four
days where you can spend time with
others who are walking through this
life just like you are. Wondering
the same questions you are. There
will be a band, food and a lot of
fun, and I just so happen to have
an open spot if you would like to
come.

JAMIE:
I don't know... It seems nice and
all, but I just don't know if this
is really for me.

PASTOR:
Just think about it, we leave
Wednesday morning and come home
Sunday morning.

JAMIE:
Okay, I'll think about it.

Liam and Jamie rise to leave, Liam and Pastor shake hands,
some inaudible dialogue as the transition takes place.

Fade.