



August 15, 2010

Story Time

When my daughter was smaller we had story time every night before her bedtime. I enjoyed the time we spent together as we pretended to blast off in our spaceship to snuggle space where we could read our story. On the way to snuggle space we had to pass through a dark zone filled with what we called snuggle snatchers. Sometimes the snuggle snatchers got into the spaceship and caused havoc. Those were great times. As she has gotten older she has outgrown story time with her papa. We enjoy stories individually now and talk about them but the close time has changed. Sometimes I think that God gave us his word so that we would sit and have story time with him. In prayer we talk to God but when we read his words, he talks to us. He tells us things that a father wants his children to know and he prepares us for a world that is filled with dangers and dilemmas. As we go through life, in one way or another, too many of God's children outgrow story time. Some think that the Bible is for children and as adults we really don't need it. But how grown up are we in the sight of God? What wisdom is greater than what we can gain from the creator of all things? Christ told his disciples, "***Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.***" (Matt 18.3). There is a need to return to the days of feeling a desire for closeness with God and the willingness to listen to what he has to say. Story time was a time to seal out the cares of the world and enjoy real peace. God has provided us with that in his word and our need to dwell on it, understanding and turning it over in our minds so that we know how to use it in our lives and share it with others. Paul exhorted Timothy to "***give attendance to reading***" (1 Tim 4.13) and instructed him to study (2 Tim 2.15). When we consider what that means, we find that we have to make God a priority in our lives so we can spend time with him through his word. We have to commit to breaking away from the cares of the world for a period of time to listen to God. It is interesting that in doing these things what we find is that we are more relaxed. We develop a sense of inner calm and may even find that dealing with problems is easier. We discover new passages and new meaning in familiar passages as reading the Bible becomes a journey of discovery, not a gotta-get-it-done drudgery. We find that the Bible is interesting in a way that we won't get tired of. But there are many who have outgrown God and need to read his word. I miss storytime with my girl. It would not be the same thing now as she is more independent, and that is the way it should be. Story time served it's purpose and she can function on her own. But when we look at the word of God and our need for the Lord we will never be completely independent of Him. There will always be a need for the peace and comfort that comes from sharing time with God and hearing more of what he has to say to us. While God does not need humans, or anything that we can do for him, he loves us and wants to save us. A very sad note is found in the scriptures that I think sums this up very well. "***The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.***" (Psm 14.2). God's desire to save and protect from the destructive influence of the Devil is brought out in another passage from the Psalms. "***How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.***" (Psm 36.7). Love, protection and the desire to be close are all aspects of sharing time with God and his word. That is what God wants and he extends a ready invitation to join us in that special space where we can talk together. My daughter and I had to navigate dark space to avoid the snuggle snatchers on the way to storytime. We had to look for the portal that would provide safety and freedom. Now we have to avoid the Devil and the dark influence of distraction to get to the protected space where God waits for story time with his children. Pick up the book.

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