



02/01/2012

Weekly Devotional

Mother Teresa, Jesus and Me – Part 1

by Mark A. Segraves

Here's my twist on a story I heard some time ago:

Mother Teresa died and went to heaven. She stood before the Pearly Gates and let Saint Peter know she was ready to enter that Holy City. "Why should I let you in?" asked Peter. "Well," said Mother Teresa, a little taken aback, "do you know who I am?" "You bet," replied Peter. "Actually, I don't gamble!" said Mother Teresa, "but I have done some pretty impressive things throughout my lifetime." "Okay," says Peter, "we'll do this your way."

"All you have to do," Peter continued, "is tell me about all the great things you've done and I'll give you points for each. When you have one hundred points you can enter the City." "Sounds good," said Mother Teresa, more confident now. "First, I gave up all earthly possession and took a lifetime vow of poverty." "Whoa!" said Peter, who always appreciated a big catch of fish and good money. "That's pretty significant... that will be one point."

Mother Teresa almost choked. "One point? Are you serious?" She thought for a moment and said, "How about this... with my bare hands I picked up more than forty thousand starving orphans and provided shelter and food for them." Peter was so impressed he just stood there shaking his head. "That is phenomenal. Amazing! I can hardly believe it... that's another two points!" Mother Teresa had played her biggest card and she knew it. "But that's all I've got! Three points... for everything I've done? That's ridiculous! This is impossible! At this rate, the only way I'll get into heaven is the grace of God!" As these words still echoed through the fluffy clouds, the gates of heaven began to open and Peter said, "Welcome home!"

This story is based on a conversation I had with my dad several years ago. We were talking about Mother Teresa and I'll never forget what he said. "Son, even Mother Teresa has to put her faith in Jesus." When it comes to good works, I don't hold a candle to Mother Teresa. If she can't make it to heaven based on the great things she accomplished, I don't have a chance. Fortunately, Mother Teresa and I have something in common – we both need Jesus. Of course, this is true for all of us.

It doesn't matter if you're conservative, liberal, Republican, Democrat, Gentile or Jew. Faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is absolutely essential. Think about that! Speaking of Peter, even he knew that perfect obedience to the 613 commandments of the Law of Moses could not earn enough points to get a

Jew to heaven. That's why he said, "We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 15:11, NLT).

More next week...

Prayer: Gracious God, I have nothing to offer you except faith. I have nothing to brag about except the cross. I forget this sometimes, so please forgive me. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Point to Ponder: How do you define legalism? Does the shoe fit?



Mark Segraves is associate pastor of LifeSong in Stockton, CA.

Click **[HERE](#)** to request a free subscription to the **LifeSong Weekly Devotional**, your weekly inspiration via email.

(c) 2009-2012 Mark A. Segraves. All rights reserved.

=====
THIS IS AN AUTOMATED MESSAGE PLEASE DO NOT REPLY
=====

If someone forwarded this devotional to you, you can subscribe by sending an email to **mark@lifesong.net**.

If you wish to unsubscribe, send an email to mark@lifesong.net.

LifeSong
3034 Michigan Avenue
Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 943-6604
www.lifesong.net
