

Be Strong #23

“Quick Lube Moment of Truth”

I get it, or at least I think I do. Jesus was talking to his disciples one day and said “I tell you the truth unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 18:2-4. Right before my eyes this verse exploded with understanding in a Quick Lube waiting area.



I had rushed in to get an overdue oil change on our car and sat down in the waiting area. As I looked for something to read, I scanned the room to see who was there. It was a busy place so the waiting space was packed, and there they were, a father and his five or six year old daughter. He was reading a children’s book to his little girl, she was enthralled with her dad and what he was reading. Blonde hair needed combing, and glasses, the cutest little girl you’d ever seen. She reminded me of my own Ashley when she was that age. As I watched them for awhile, it was so apparent that this little girl loved her daddy so very much. She was in awe of him. He was bigger than life to her. She was never more than a foot from him, even when he got up to stretch his legs



she was constantly talking with her daddy asking questions and pointing to things in the Quick Lube. “What’s this daddy? What’s this daddy? It looks like a sippy cup. What are they doing to your truck? What’s that smell?” She was always focused on her dad, continually wanting his attention, and when she got it there were smiles and laughter and then as I smiled and watched I had at least three thoughts.

First, memories of the day my Ashley was just like that little girl---simple, naïve, embarrassingly honest, and totally in awe of her daddy. Those thoughts are so much more in the forefront of my mind and heart as I just returned from driving her to California to pursue her dream in the film industry. My heart sinks when I think of leaving her there this past Sunday and flying home.

And I had another thought. I’m pretty sure it was prompted by the Holy Spirit. This must be what Jesus meant “unless you become as a little child” with wide-eyed love and admiration for your heavenly father, you will never be His. Unless you see God as your provider, protector, and perfect heavenly father, you will miss His purpose for you. Unless you become as a little girl who is constantly in conversation with her father, you’ll miss out on life, here and now. And then the spirit brought a convicting question, “Where had the little child gone in me?” the bigger than life attitude towards my heavenly father, the constant conversations, the questions, the laughter, the joy, as we walked and talked together. Oh, bring me back Lord Jesus to those days of childlike wonder, unconditional love, and complete surrender to my Father’s voice. Forgive us Lord for growing up and becoming like many teenagers today who rarely have conversations with their dad and would rather spend time with others than sit and read and laugh and play games with their creator, the one who loves us more than anyone in life. Forgive us for following the pattern of this world instead of pursuing your kingdom. When we first came to Jesus, this is how we came. Let’s go back there today and let’s take our family with us. May our sons and daughters see in us what we see in our heavenly father.” Ephesians 5:1 says “Be imitators of God

as dearly loved children,” our father, our creator, our provider, our laughter, our joy, our intimate friendship, our only hope.

I pray that these thoughts and verbal pictures today will take you back so that you too can ponder your love relationship with your heavenly father. In doing so, may that bring out the very best in you as a parent as you continue to “be strong in the Lord and his mighty power” raising your kids to seek Christ first. Remember today, no matter what happens, **you are the parent.**

In His Joy,

Jerome
Ephesians 2:10