

Be Strong #33

Pilots & Paws

“Rescue the perishing, care for the dying.” The words of an old hymn get our attention and remind us of those that need to be rescued and saved for life. I was reminded of this today as I watched a Good Morning, America news clip on that very thing. But it wasn’t about people, it was about dogs. An organization called “Pilots & Paws” is rescuing shelter dogs that are destined for death row. They’re doing their best to find a place on the planet where they can find a life. They are using pilots with their own small planes to take two, three, up to five dogs to another city or state, delivering them to a new owner and a chance for life. The pilots are doing this at their own expense sometimes spending up to \$2,000 a trip! Their goal for a seven day period is to have 900 pilots transport 5,000 dogs to new homes or safe shelters. The founder of this organization was in tears as a result of all those precious animals that will be saved. She said, “we can’t save all dogs, but we can save some.” I love dogs and I applaud their effort to take care of God’s creation, but I must admit the conviction that stings like daggers in my heart. Where is my passion, compassion, and unrelenting motivation to rescue the lives of those who are lost and perishing without hope? How much of my day is spent praying for the lost people I know? How much have I spent on making a way for lost friends to hear the life-changing message of Christ? When was the last time I shed a tear over someone coming to Christ? When I drive down my neighborhood, do I see my neighbors like Jesus does, “harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd,” Matthew 9:35? We have two dogs, Chloe and Ginger. We took them into our home and have loved and cared for them for years. I shudder to think where they would have been today if we had not opened our home and hearts to them, but I really don’t want another dog. The heart of our heavenly father is not to rescue and provide a place in our home for them. His passion is for them to be “rescued from darkness and brought into the kingdom of the Son He loves,” Colossians 1:13. The bottom line for me is that there are those that I am praying for who need to be saved. I do make time to spend with them in hope that the spirit of God would orchestrate conversation about Himself. My conviction today is that I must do that more and more. Not because I must, but because I hate the thought of people going through life without Christ. And even more, I hate the reality of their eternal destiny without Christ. So, I am asking God to give me a greater love today and every day. I’m asking Him to give me the same hatred for sin that He has and as a result I’m asking Him to let me see the lost like He does and fill my heart with a compassion and a love for them that will not stop until they pass from darkness into light. Will you join me in that prayer? Will you lead your family in that prayer? You are surrounded by lost people every day. Your kids sit next to lost teenagers every day in classes. Some of their closest friends may not know Christ. Will you pray with them for the sake of their friends? Remember; “be strong in the Lord and In His mighty power.” You are the parent. We only have so much time energy and money. Let’s make the most of what God has given us to

rescue lives for His kingdom. “Rescue the perishing, care for the dying, Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.”

In His Joy

Jerome

Eph. 2:10