



she loves

Devotional
October 16, 2009

GOD'S "CINDERELLA" STORY

There is something about a good Cinderella story that just captures our hearts! It is so amazing to see an underdog team come from behind and win a spectacular upset victory like the Shiloh Eagles team in the Christian movie "Facing the Giants". Think of people like Terry Fox and Rick Hansen overcoming tremendous obstacles in an effort to rise above their illness and injuries and do something to fight back. Think of the children featured in World Vision documentaries that are given food, shelter, education, and hope for a better future. And who doesn't enjoy the classic transformation story of Cinderella—told in countless forms in books and movies. Why do these stories have such a universal appeal and how do they so deeply touch our hearts? I believe it is because each of these stories reflects an even greater story...God's "Cinderella" Story.

The Good News of the Bible is that God has given us nobility that we could not earn. He elevates us to royal status when we believe in Jesus—the only Son of the King of the Universe. It is His royalty, and His gift of forgiveness, that takes us from the ashes of sin and clothes us in glorious robes of purity and a crown of honour.

Unlike the world, He is not fixated on the rich, beautiful, famous, and successful. Instead, His actions reveal that He has a special interest in reaching out with love to those who are weak, widowed, orphaned, childless, abandoned, wounded, neglected, anxious, sick, imprisoned, suffering, and lost.

Over and over again in the scriptures, we see Him purposefully reaching out to these kinds of people—to make them a part of His Story. He heals the sick. He gives children to the barren long after all hope is gone. He raises great leaders from those who are weak or lacking in eloquence. He finds the lost and welcomes home the wayward Prodigal. He comforts and heals the brokenhearted.

When He enters history, He Himself is born to a lowly peasant girl in humble circumstances—marginalized by crowded inns and driven out of the country by the violence of a jealous king. His teaching reveals that the great love of God is not reserved for the most upstanding citizens but it is a gift offered to even the worst of sinners. Jesus' life on earth is a picture of service and sacrifice culminating in a battle at the cross that, at first, looks like a grim defeat but in a huge upset over Satan He rises in victory!

Yes, God is the author of the "Cinderella" Story. It is the great theme of His book, the Bible, and it is the story that He is writing in each one of our lives. The story isn't finished yet. Ultimately, it is Jesus to whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess that "Jesus is Lord". He will win it all—and he wants to take us with Him! He wants to call us His sons and daughters—the children of the King!

God's "Cinderella" story is for you. Every day He is reaching out to you in love and forgiveness. He wants to give you royalty beyond anything you can imagine! Take His hand and believe!

Blessings on behalf of the Northview Women's Commission,

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