

## **RESCUE ME**

GOOD MORNING CHURCH FAMILY, LIKE WE DO EACH WEEK, LETS SHOW SOME LOVE TO OUR ON LINE FAMILY. NO MATTER WHAT PLATFORM YOU ARE WATCHING FROM, WE CONSIDER YOU FAMILY. I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO HONOR PASTOR JASON AND MELISSA, COME ON FAMILY, LETS LET THEM KNOW HOW MUCH WE LOVE THEM. GOD TRULY HAS BLESSED US WITH GREAT PASTORS AND I BELIEVE THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU THIS MORNING FOR A FEW MINUTES ON A THOUGHT I HAD. ORIGINALLY, MY MESSAGE WAS GONNA BE BASED OFF THE SCRIPTURE ISAIAH 59:19, WHICH SAID WHEN THE ENEMY COMES IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL RAISE A STANDARD. THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED. IN A MATTER OF 1 WEEK, I HAD 3 CARS AND A MOTORCYCLE TO BREAK DOWN. AT THAT POINT, I CHANGED MY SERMON TO "RESCUE ME!" I FELT LIKE I WAS DROWNING AND THE THOUGHT CAME TO ME..... .GOD, RESCUE ME!

***PSALM 40:1-3 (NIV) "I WAITED PATIENTLY FOR THE LORD; HE TURNED TO ME AND HEARD MY CRY. HE LIFTED ME OUT OF THE SLIMY PIT, OUT OF THE MUD AND MIRE; HE SET MY FEET ON A ROCK AND GAVE ME A FIRM PLACE TO STAND. HE PUT A NEW SONG IN MY MOUTH, A HYMN OF PRAISE TO OUR GOD."***

EVERYBODY IN THIS ROOM HAS HAD A MOMENT LIKE MINE, WHERE YOU HAVE SAID,  
LORD RESCUE ME  
NOT, BLESS ME  
NOT, INCREASE ME  
NOT, PROMOTE ME, BUT LORD RESCUE ME

RESCUE ME FROM FEAR  
RESCUE ME FROM DEBT  
RESCUE ME FROM ADDICTION  
RESCUE ME FROM DEPRESSION  
RESCUE ME FROM BAD DECISIONS  
RESCUE ME FROM THIS MESS THAT I CREATED

SOMETIMES LIFE CAN FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DROWNING WHILE SMILING FOR PICTURES.

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED PEOPLE CAN LOOK FINE IN CHURCH BUT BE SINKING MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY?

THEY SAY, "HOW ARE YOU DOING?" YOU SAY "BLESSED!" BUT INTERNALLY YOUR SCREAMING: GOD.....IF YOU DON'T HELP ME, I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT.

HERES THE GOOD NEW.....WE SERVE A GOD WHO SPECIALIZES IN RESCUE MISSIONS.

**PROVERBS 18:10 (NIV) THE NAME OF THE LORD IS A FORTIFIED (STRONG) TOWER; THE RIGHTEOUS RUN TO IT AND THEY ARE SAFE.**

GOD IS NOT INTIMIDATED BY OUR BROKENNESS OR BROKEN PEOPLE. HE IS NOT SCARED OF IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS. NOTHING EVER CATCHES GOD OFF GUARD. HE IS NOT ALLERGIC TO OUR MESSSES.

INFAC, THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, GOD KEEPS SHOWING UP WHERE PEOPLE ARE TRAPPED, SINKING, BOUND, BURIED OR OUTNUMBERED. AND EVERY TIME, GOD RESPONDS WITH ONE MESSAGE: "I'M COMING TO GET YOU."

**CAN SOMEONE SHOUT, "RESCUE ME?"**

TODAY I WANT TO GIVE YOU 4 OBSERVATIONS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE YOU WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE NEEDING RESCUED..

**POINT #1- GOD RESCUES PEOPLE WHO CRY OUT TO HIM**

**PSALM 34:17 (NIV) "THE RIGHTEOUS CRY OUT, AND THE LORD HEARS THEM; HE DELIVERS THEM FROM ALL THEIR TROUBLES."**

NOTICE THE WORD SAYS "*THEY CRIED OUT*"..... YOUR RESCUE BEGINS WITH HONESTY. SOME PEOPLE NEVER GET RESCUED BECAUSE THEY KEEP PRETENDING THEY ARE OK....BUT THERE COMES A POINT IN OUR LIFE WHERE OUR PRIDE BREAKS AND WE FINALLY PRAY THIS INCREDIBLE PRAYER....IT MAY GO SOMETHING LIKE THIS

"DEAR GOD.....HELP!!!!!!!"

**PETER IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS.** IN MATTHEW 14, PETER WALKS ON WATER TOWARD JESUS. BUT WHEN THE WINDS START TO BLOW AND THE WAVES START GETTING BIGGER, PETER BEGINS TO SINK. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT AS HE WAS SINKING, PETER CRIED OUT TO JESUS, SAYING “LORD, SAVE ME!” AND IMMEDIATELY, JESUS REACHED OUT HIS HAND.

I LOVE THIS BECAUSE PETER WAS SINKING BECAUSE OF HIS OWN FEAR, YET JESUS, STILL RESCUED HIM.

THAT MEANS: EVEN IF YOU CAUSED THE SITUATION AND YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO A MESS, GOD CAN STILL PULL YOU OUT OF IT.

**SOMEBODY SHOUT: “HE CAN STILL RESCUE ME!”**

SOME OF US ARE JUST ONE PRAYER AWAY FROM A TURNAROUND  
ONE CRY AWAY  
ONE SURRENDER AWAY  
ONE HONEST MOMENT AWAY  
BECAUSE GOD RESPONDS TO DESPERATE FAITH.....NOT POLISHED FAITH,  
NOT PRETTY FAITH.....DESPERATE FAITH

**REAL LIFE RESCUE STORY OF SOCCER TEAM**

IN 2018 12 BOYS AND THEIR SOCCER COACH BECAME TRAPPED DEEP INSIDE A FLOODED CAVE IN THAILAND.  
DARKNESS EVERYWHERE....RISING WATERS AND NO WAY OUT.....  
EXPERTS SAID RESCUE MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT RESCUE DIVERS AROUND THE WORLD CAME TOGETHER.....DIVERS RISKED THEIR LIVES SWIMMING THROUGH NARROW UNDERWATER PASSAGES JUST TO BRING THOSE BOYS AND THAT COACH HOME.

FOR 18 DAYS THEY WERE TRAPPED.....I CAN'T IMAGINE THE DESPIRATION THEY WERE FEELING, BUT 1 BY 1, THEY WERE RESCUED....THAT STORY SHOOK THE WORLD BECAUSE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS THE POWER OF RESCUE.

CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING?

GOD HAS BEEN DIVING INTO DARK PLACES LONG BEFORE HUMAN RESCUERS EVER DID.

HE GOES INTO OUR DEPRESSION AND GIVES US JOY  
HE GOES INTO OUR ADDICTION AND GIVES US FREEDOM  
HE GOES INTO OUR TRAUMA AND BRINGS HEALING  
HE GOES INTO OUR MESS AND MAKES OUR LIFE A MESSAGE  
HE IS TAKING OUR TEST AND TURNING IT INTO OUR TESTAMONY  
GOD IS STILL BRINGING PEOPLE OUT ALIVE.

## **POINT #2- GOD RESCUES PEOPLE IN FIERY SITUATIONS**

SOMEBODY HERE IS IN THE FIRE RIGHT NOW.  
THE FIRE OF PRESSURE.....THE FIRE OF CRITICISM  
THE FLAMES OF UNCERTAINTY

BUT HEAR ME:

GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS STOP THE FIRE. SOMETIMES HE STEPS INTO THE FIRE WITH YOU.

**THE THREE HEBREW BOYS IN DANIEL CHAPTER 3** LEARNED THIS.  
SHADRACH, MESHACK AND ABEDNEGO REFUSED TO BOW TO THE KING'S IDOL. SO THEY WERE THROWN INTO A FIERY FURNACE.  
SCRIPTURE SAYS THAT THE KING WAS SO UPSET WITH THE BOYS, THAT HE HAD THE FLAMES HEATED 7X HOTTER....AND THEN HE HAD THEM TOSSED INTO THE FLAMES.....BUT LOOK WHAT GOD DID.....IT SAYS IN SCRIPTURE THAT THE KING LOOKED IN THE FLAMES AND SAID:

***“DIDN'T WE THROW THREE MEN INTO THE FIRE? I SEE FOUR MEN WALKING AROUND.... AND THE FOURTH LOOKS LIKE THE SON OF GOD.”***

THAT FIRE WAS REAL....BUT SO WAS GOD'S PRESENCE

WHEN THEY CAME OUT: THEIR CLOTHES WERE NOT BURNED  
THEIR HAIR WAS NOT SINGED AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN SMELL LIKE SMOKE

**HUMOR MOMENT:** SOME OF US GO THROUGH ONE LITTLE TRIAL AND WE ACT LIKE WE SURVIVED VIETNAM

*I HAD A HARD WEEK.....BRO, YOUR WI-FI WENT OUT FOR 20 MIN.....HAHA*

BUT WHEN YOU HAVE REALLY BEEN THROUGH THE FIRE, YOU LEARN HOW FAITHFUL GOD REALLY IS.

## **REAL LIFE RESCUE STORY #2**

IN 2009 CAPT CHESLEY "SULLY" SULLENBERGER LANDED A FAILING AIRPLANE ON THE HUDSON RIVER AFTER BOTH ENGINES WERE DESTROYED BY BIRDS. EXPERTS SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE YET ALL 155 PEOPLE SURVIVED. PEOPLE CALLED IT THE MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON

SOMETIMES YOUR LIFE LOSES ENGINE POWER  
YOU LOSE MOMENT  
YOU LOSE STRENGTH  
YOU LOSE HOPE

BUT GOD KNOWS HOW TO LAND BROKEN SITUATIONS SAFELY

EVERYONE THOUGHT YOU WOULD CRASH....BUT SOMEHOW YOU SURVIVED

THAT WASN'T LUCK.....THAT WAS GOD'S MERCY!

## **POINT#3- GOD RESCUES PEOPLE FROM WHAT SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM.**

SOME OF US SHOULD NOT EVEN BE HERE TODAY.....THAT ACCIDENT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU OUT.....  
THAT ADDICTION SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU  
YOUR DEPRESSION SHOULD HAVE BURIED YOU

BUT GOD SAID.....NOT YET!!!! YOUR STORY IS NOT FINISHED.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE- DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN

DANIEL WAS THROUGH INTO A DEN FULL OF LIONS BECAUSE HE REFUSE TO STOP PRAYING.  
BUT GOD SHUT THE MOUTHS OF THE LIONS.  
THE SAME GOD THAT MADE THE LIONS MOUTH SHUT IS THE SAME GOD THAT CAN SILENCE WHAT IS TRYING TO DEVOUR YOU....

THE ENEMY OPENED HIS MOUTH AGAINST YOU, BUT GOD.....BUT GOD, HAS THE FINAL WORD

**SOMEBODY SAY....."LORD, RESCUE ME"**

WHEN THE ENEMY SAID: YOU'LL NEVER RECOVER  
GOD SAID, *"WATCH ME RESCUE THEM."*

WHEN HELL SAID: "YOU'RE FINISHED"  
GOD SAID "WATCH ME RAISE THEM UP"

WHEN FEAR SAID: "YOU'RE DROWNING....."  
GOD SAID...."I WALK ON WATER."

JESUS IS HEAVENS RESCUE MISSING FOR HUMANITY  
GOD LOOKED DOWN ON OUR SIN, OUR SHAME, OUR HOPELESSNESS AND SAID  
"HOLD ON, I'M MAKING A WAY. I AM SENDING MY SON TO RESCUE YOU

**POINT 4- JESUS IS THE GREATEST RESCUER OF ALL**

**COLOSSIANS 1:13 (NIV) "FOR HE HAS RESCUED US FROM THE DOMINION OF DARKNESS AND BROUGHT US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON HE LOVES."**

JOHN 3:16 SAYS FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON...THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

THE CROSS WAS THE RESCUE OPERATION.

JESUS STEPPED INTO OUR DANGER TO SAVE US  
HE TOOK NAILS SO WE COULD HAVE FREEDOM  
HE TOOK OUR PUNISHMENT SO WE COULD HAVE PEACE.

THE GREATEST MIRACLE IS NOT JUST BEING RESCUED FROM TROUBLE.....ITS BEING RESCUED FROM OUR SIN.

**CLOSING STORY:** A LITTLE BOY ONCE FELL INTO DEEP WATER AND COULDN'T SWIM. A MAN, JUMPED IN FULLY CLOTHED FOUGHT THE CURRENT, GRABBED THE CHILD, AND PULLED HIM TO THE SHORE

LATER, SOMEONE ASKED THE LITTLE BOY: "DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE MAN LOOKED LIKE?"

THE BOY SAID: "NO.....I JUST REMEMBER HIS HANDS."

CAN I TELL YOU WHY SOME OF US PRAISE GOD THE WAY WE DO?

BECAUSE WE REMEMBER HIS HANDS....  
HANDS THAT PICKED US UP  
HANDS THAT CARRIED US TO SAFETY  
HANDS THAT TOOK NAILS AND BOUGHT OUR SALVATION

### **ALTAR CALL/CLOSING**

I WANT TO WORSHIP TEAM TO COME UP AND THEY ARE GONNA LEAD US IN A SONG....MAYBE TODAY, YOU NEED RESCUED

YOU NEED RESCUE FROM FEAR  
FROM GRIEF  
FROM ADDICTION  
FROM ANXIETY  
FROM EXHAUSTION  
MAYBE YOU NEED RESCUED FROM SIN

THE BEAUTIFUL THING ABOUT GOD IS THIS: YOU ARE NEVER TOO FAR GONE FOR HIS REACH

PETER WAS SINKING= RESCUED  
DANIEL WAS TRAPPED= RESCUED  
HEBREW BOYS WERE BURNING= RESCUED

THIS MORNING, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO GRAB HOLD OF JESUS....MAYBE YOU ARE NOT IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND

YOU WANT SET FREE...TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION. RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, WE ARE GONNA SAY THIS PRAYER.....IF YOU PRAY THIS PRAYER AND MEAN IT WITH YOUR HEART, JESUS WILL SAVE YOU

**PRAY SINNERS PRAYER:**

IF GOD DID IT BEFORE, HE WILL DO IT AGAIN.....OUR GOD IS IN THE SAVING BUSINESS

IF YOU BELIEVE GOD IS STILL A RESCUER....GIVE HIM PRAISE LIKE HE ALREADY PULLED YOU OUT

IF YOU PRAYED THE PRAYER OF FAITH WITH US THIS MORNING, I WANT TO WELCOME YOU TO THE FAMILY OF GOD....COME ON CHURCH FAMILY, LETS WELCOME THEM TO THE FAMILY OF GOD. ON YOUR WAY OUT, THERE IS A DISPLAY CASE WITH A DEVOTION THAT PASTOR JASON HAS WRITTEN, PLEASE PICK ONE OF THOSE UP. ITS CALLED "NEW START." THIS WILL HELP GUIDE YOU THROUGH YOUR JOURNEY AS YOU FOLLOW JESUS.

WE HAVE OUR PRAYER COUNSELORS HERE READY TO PRAY WITH YOU, AS YOU LEAVE TODAY, REMEMBER THAT YOU SERVE A GOD THAT STILL IS IN THE RESCUING BUSINESS.....GO AND BE BLESSED, WE WILL SEE YOU BACK NEXT WEEK.