

McCabe United Methodist Church

“No Matter What”

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Matthew 19:13-15

Whenever I hear or read this verse, I am amazed. The verse does not describe anything miraculous by itself, but I believe that this verse is telling about the relationship that God wants us to have with Him. Here you have Jesus Christ, without question, the most important person that has ever lived, even though there were those back then that wouldn't believe that. While on earth Jesus did a great number of amazing, extraordinary things, including healing the sick, the blind, and the deaf. He walked on water and rose from the dead.

One day we find Jesus is teaching when some parents bring their children to be blessed by Jesus. The disciples told the children not to bother Jesus, but Jesus refused to be bothered by the children. He had the children come to him and as he blessed and prayed for them and said “The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” Jesus is telling us the relationship that we must have with God. We have to have a relationship with God that is the same as a relationship a child has with a parent. We have to need God to provide for us, but it is much more than just a need, we have to love God so much that we know we need for God to provide for us. It's about knowing that we can't do everything ourselves and that God loves us so much that he will provide for us. God's love goes beyond wanting to just provide for us.

When I was getting ready for my first year of law school on 2008, I wanted to go somewhere far away. Now I was raised in Bismarck, lived most of my life here, even received my under-graduate degree at the University of Mary. When I was applying to law schools, I looked for law schools as far away as I could go. I eventually picked a law school all the way in Jacksonville, FL, not because I don't love North Dakota or my family, but because I felt as a 22 year old, I was capable of taking care of myself and I wanted to prove that. It was about me showing that I could be on my own. When it was time to move down to Jacksonville, my mother, father and sister came with to help me move. As the week went on, my mother pulled me aside to make sure I had everything that I would need, and being the mature adult that I was, I believed that there wasn't anything that I wasn't prepared for and I reassured her that she didn't need to worry about

anything. My mother looked at me and simply said that “no matter how old you get, no matter where you go, no matter what you do, I will always worry about you.”

That is something that I remember even to this day, because I realized that if you don't truly love something then you don't really worry about it. That's another aspect of God's love. God loves us so much that he worries about what we do, so much so that he sent Jesus Christ to earth to be our salvation. God worries because he cares for us and knows that we will need saving and made that possible.

There is another aspect of God's love that is perfectly illustrated in another story. There was a farmer who did very well for himself and his family. He had two sons that worked for him. The younger son decided that he had worked enough and he deserved to go out into the world and live his life. The younger son went to his father and asked for what he deserved, half of the family inheritance. The son took his half of the inheritance and went out and as young people do with all of their money, they spent it on stuff they don't really need. When a young person spends a lot of money, they tend to get a lot of new friends, and that's exactly what happened to the younger son. But eventually the party had to end and the son ran out of money and friends and had nowhere to go. Eventually the son thought at the very least he could go home and even if his father wouldn't forgive him, maybe he could earn that trust back and just work for his father.

The son went home and when his father saw him, his father ran to him and picked him up and was excited to see him. The son tried asking for a job but his father was having none of it and instead the father ordered a party because he was excited that his son had returned to him. The older son couldn't understand why his father wanted to celebrate, but his father simply told him, that he was proud that the older son stayed, but he thought he would never see the younger son again and now that he is home that is cause for celebration. That is just another aspect of God's love for us. He loves us so much he knows that at some time we may turn our backs on him, but He will forgive us no matter what.

God loves us so much that he will provide, will worry, and forgive us no matter what, and we owe it to Him that we should love Him so much that we need Him to provide for us, we appreciate that He worries about us, and we know that He will forgive us.