

A Great Gift

It was always a hard story for me to understand; and honestly, I never liked the story. Why was I thinking of it now? One of the amazing things about the Bible, is the way a story can suddenly come alive and take on new meaning, even after we've read the story many times. Sometimes God might even have a message there, just for us – just for a time like this. But, not this story. I never liked the story of Abraham and Isaac. Why would God ask Abraham to sacrifice his promised son, and why would I think about it now?

I was so excited that Andrea (my daughter) was finally old enough to go on a Chrysalis walk. The Walk to Emmaus had been such a life-changing experience for Sandy and me, we wanted this for Andrea. "Priority one" as parents – to help Andrea develop a deep personal bond with Christ.

The Chrysalis "flight" had begun, send-off was over, and we were at "Sponsor's Hour". I had taken communion, and was praying over Andrea's cross. It was a wonderful moment, filled with emotion and joy. And suddenly the story of Abraham and Isaac was in my head.

The thought followed me back to the pew, and then suddenly God had something for me in this ancient story. God wanted me to understand the same thing that Abraham had to understand – Andrea does not "belong" to me, she "belongs" to God. She is not "mine", but God's. After this experience, I better understood my role as parent, father, & steward. I had been given a great gift.

As you can imagine, the Chrysalis flight was huge for Andrea (and her parents). As she became part of the Chrysalis community, served on teams, and eventually gave a couple of talks; you could see the growth. She was beginning to know her real Father. And the blessing for us – with God at the core, our father/daughter relationship was better than I could have dreamed. What a beautiful thing God was doing.

There were many things that helped us bond as father/daughter; from our shared love of Narnia, to our love of movies. But, I believe that Chrysalis walk was a milestone; it was a great gift from God to our family.

*I share this story for one primary reason. I know that we're heading into a busy summer season. I know there are a lot of "wonderful things" fighting for our priority and attention, and **I believe that sponsoring young men and women on Chrysalis should be a priority.***

*If you are *not* a parent of a teen, that doesn't let you off the hook – friends, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, neighbors, etc... Our young people are living in a society that is "bombarding" them with lies, and we know "The Truth".*

Let's get those sponsorships in today.

DeColores!

Matt