

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

June 13, 2004

I Saw Jesus

Chuck Durham

*I saw Jesus last week.
He was wearing blue jeans and an old shirt.
He was up at the church building;
He was alone and working hard.
For just a minute he looked a little like one of our members.
But it was Jesus.
I could tell by his smile.*

We often discount physical labor at the church building as not being “spiritual” work. We think it’s not as important as baptizing a soul into the Lord. How can it compare to teaching a one-on-one Bible class to an unbeliever? “It ain’t spiritual.” How vital is your first impression upon arriving at a potential house you may buy as your future residence? If the paint is peeling, the gutters are sagging, and the carpet is severely worn, how likely are you to buy that house? When someone makes sure the weeds are pulled, the grass is mowed, and the building is clean and presentable, that makes a “spiritual” first impression. It says someone really cares about the “spiritual” work that goes on here. It says someone truly believes in what the people assembled here stand for.

*I saw Jesus last Sunday.
He was teaching a Bible class.
He didn’t talk real loud or use long words,
But you could tell he believed what he said.
For just a minute, he looked like my Sunday School teacher.
But it was Jesus.
I could tell by his loving voice.*

Sincerity and strong conviction go a long way, don't they? When coupled with a fervent desire for the truth, they are unstoppable. It catches. They may not be dynamic rhetoricians, but they are far more significant. They are serving and growing. I love to see Jesus in the faces of those teaching God's word. You can always see Him in the hearts of those who are "of the truth" (John 18:37). Their love is for others to truly see God. It is the passion of their life.

*I saw Jesus yesterday.
He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick.
They prayed together quietly.
For just a minute he looked like brother Jones.
But it was Jesus.
I could tell by the tears in his eyes.*

I remember the weeks my son Jonathan has been in the hospital during his life. A sister in Christ brought him cupcakes on his 5th birthday that he celebrated during a 3-week stay in the hospital. We didn't even know her, but she came anyway I remember those who came by to see him. More than once. Those kind gestures mean so much to those undergoing the trials of sickness and pain. They comfort and heal in a stronger way than medicines and surgery. Their touch of love and compassion are never forgotten. I saw Jesus.

*I saw Jesus this morning.
He was in my kitchen making my breakfast and
fixing me a special lunch.
For just a minute he looked like my mom.
But it was Jesus.
I could feel the love from his heart.*

Serving Jesus... that means preaching His word, or leading the singing, doesn't it? It means teaching a Bible class, or serving at the Lord's Table, right? But making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and washing a tub full of dirty clothes — you gotta be kidding! When Dorcas died the widows showed Peter all the garments she had made. The Bible says she was "full of good works and charitable deeds" (Acts 9:39, 36). Paul wrote Titus declaring that Jesus "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works" (2:14). Sounds to me like Jesus thinks a mom loving her

children and husband is doing a mighty big spiritual work (cf. Titus 2:4).

*I see Jesus everywhere,
Taking food to the sick,
Welcoming others to his home,
Being friendly to a newcomer;
And for just a minute, I think he's someone I know.
But it's always Jesus.
I can tell by the way he serves.
May someone see Jesus in you today.*

- Author Unknown

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

“Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; oh, sing praises to the Lord.”—Psalm 68:28

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).