

The Man Who Takes the Son Gets Everything

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Viet Nam War broke out, the son went to war. He was a very courageous individual and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified of his son's death, and a period of deep grieving began. About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me. But I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the head. He died instantly. He often talked about you and your love for art. The young man held out his package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this. The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes swelled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me... it's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The father died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their own collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel, "We will start the bidding with this picture of the Son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was silence.

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted, "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100. . . \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily, "We didn't come here to see this painting. We came here to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued, "The son The Son! Who will take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting of the son.' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will make it \$20?" "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." \$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. Going once... twice . . . SOLD for \$10!" A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over "What about the paintings?" "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. **The man who took the son . . . gets everything**

God gave His Son almost 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is . . . "The **Son, the Son, who will take the Son?**' But . . . you . . . He who takes the Son ... gets everything.

We are here in _____ today, and unless these lovely people get the Son, they will lose everything . . . including their souls.

John 3:15-17 – "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Herein we have . . .

- **God** — The Greatest Giver
- **So loved** — The greatest degree
- **The World** — The Greatest Object
- **That He gave** — The Greatest Act
- **His only begotten Son**— The Greatest Gift
- **That whoever** — The Greatest Opportunity
- **Believes** — The Greatest Simplicity
- **In Him** — The Greatest Attraction.
- **Should not perish** — The Greatest Promise
- **But** — The Greatest Difference

- **Have** — The Greatest Certainty
- **Eternal Life** — The Greatest Possession

Using verse and rhyme another has written:

- **God** — The Lord of earth and heaven,
- **So loved** — and longed to see forgiven,
- **The World** — in sin and pleasure mad,
- **That He gave** — the greatest gift He had,
- **His only begotten Son**— to take our place,
- **That whoever** — oh, what grace!
- **Believes** — placing simple trust,
- **In Him** — the righteous and the just,
- **Should not perish** — lost in sin
- **Have Eternal Life** — in Him

In this grand text, Jesus revealed God's great love.

1. The **fact** — God so loved.
2. The **evidence** — God gave.
3. The **purpose** — to save.
4. The **proof** — God sent His only begotten Son
5. The **means** — through Him

John 8:32 – “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:36 – “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

Romans 6:22 – “But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”

Romans 6:20 – “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.”

Just as someone gave us the Son, let us go forth and give the _____ people, and all others . . . THE SON!