

I seemed to have lost my rhythm in posting weekly blogs since my surgery, but I have told my OCD mind that it is okay. I've been hearing sermons and podcasts, and reading scriptures that have told me, "This would be good to write a blog about." The simple truth is today I think the best thing I can do is write out my morning prayers, but first let me share a small exchange I had with my grandsons.

Last night I was cleaning the giant pumpkin I bought, planning to have a simple activity to do with the boys. Neither was interested when it came time, so with one arm in a sling to hold it steady, my other arm awkwardly proceeded to cut open and clean out the pumpkin. Alec became interested in seeing the inside of the pumpkin, and for whatever reason, started to gag at the smell and appearance of the contents inside. With my limited capabilities, I'm always searching for ways to tell these two young men about God.

If you've never heard, like the pumpkin, we are chosen by God and he washes us clean. He opens our hearts and helps us remove all the junk that is in our lives that has caused us to be greedy, angry, fearful, sinful, etc. When his light is inside us, we become a light for all the world to see. I told the boys that since they didn't want to help me with the pumpkin, I was going to carve it the way I wanted to. I proceeded to carve out a cross and with a black sharpie I wrote on the top, "God is bigger than the boogieman", from one of my favorite episodes of VeggieTales when my own kids were little.

My Cason basically said, "You always have to make everything about God. Why do you do that? It gets so annoying."

I answered him, "Yes, I do, because you are too young to realize how much you need God. It's my job to tell you about him. And if when I die, if all people can remember about me is how I tried to tell them about God, then I have done a good thing."

My answer sounds noble, but in truth my heart was crushed. I know God has charged me with this task for these two little guys because there doesn't seem to be anyone else that is very concerned about trying to teach them about God, about faith, and about how much he loves them. I know their great-grandparents pray for them, but they don't get to see them very often, so the burden has fallen on me, and it gets lonely sometimes. So, with that, I will share my morning prayer, still using P (praise) R (repent) A (acknowledge) I (intercession) S (supplication for self) E (equip) as my guide.

Good morning, my dear Father. I thank you for this day, and for your unending blessings. You are the creator of the universe, and I pray that I remember that I am the 'created', so may I always remember that all I have is because you have allowed it. I continue to keep my eyes on the heavenly realms because everything here is just temporary, and in the grand scheme, doesn't mean a hill of beans. May I always appreciate the beauty of your artwork all around me.

I am so sorry for my shortcomings, as I know I fail you every day. I fail myself, so I know I fail you, without a doubt. I'm sorry for getting angry with the boys. I know my patience is not what it used to be, which wasn't that great to begin with, so I just lose it sometimes. I'm sorry for not being a better steward with your money at times. During this time of continued healing physically and mentally, please help me remember that I'm not alone, and that I have other people in my life who I need to be reaching out to. Sometimes it is difficult, and I am truly selfish about it. Please forgive me.

I know you have made all things as they should be. Many times, I wish I lived in a different time, but I know I am here for your purpose, and I ask that you continue to guide me in finding that purpose. I thank you for showing me the mountain top recently, and I have not forgotten the lessons learned there. May I continue to keep 'home' as my ultimate goal in all I say and do.

This morning, first and foremost, I pray for Cason and Alec. I pray that they will see you in me, in the beauty of your creation, and that you will place people in their path that will direct them to you. I pray for Samuel and Ben, please continue to guide their paths, leading them home again. I pray for Chelsea with a mixed heart this morning, and again for Cason and Alec. It has been over a year since they have seen their mom, and I am frightened for them. Not that I think she will hurt them, not at all. Just that the very thought of them seeing her again after such a long time conjures up all kinds of emotions, hurts, and deep seeded feelings, that I pray they are strong enough to face it, experience it, and are not scarred again in the end. You know the situation and I pray for ultimate healing for my baby girl. I also pray for Charlie as he takes on this responsibility. He is much better equipped than I for this task.

I pray for my dear friends who give me encouragement each day. I wouldn't have made it through the last year without them. I've made new friends as well, and I thank you for them. Each person I'm thinking of has 'stuff' they are dealing with, and I pray for each situation sincerely. I thank you for the friends who love you and aren't afraid to remind me of who I am to you. May I strive to be as good a friend to them, as they have been to me.

Finally, Lord, please keep your word in my heart continually. Help me remember my purpose, my home, and stay close to me always that I do not feel alone. Please continue to provide ways for me to share you with someone, even if they find me 'annoying'. I praise you with all that I am.

Amen

Thank you for allowing me to share my heart this morning. I wish all of you a blessed week, and may God keep you safe and looking heavenward.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo

