

A WORD WITH YOU - By Ron Hutchcraft
10247 – “The Day You're Rescued”
Colossians 1:13-14

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There were a lot of dramatic images from the military action known as Operation Iraqi Freedom – but I think few were more dramatic than the middle-of-the-night rescue of a prisoner of war, Jessica Lynch. If you were around at the time, you probably remember it. As Coalition forces advanced quickly from the Kuwaiti border to the capital of Baghdad, Pfc. Lynch’s unit of Army maintenance troops made a wrong turn, ended up in the middle of an enemy ambush, and no one knew Jessie Lynch’s fate. She was listed as missing in action. But acting on the tip of Iraqi sympathizers, a Special Operations Force fought their way into the hospital where she was imprisoned, found her, and quickly carried her to a waiting helicopter. And then, they had to fight their way out, too. But Private Lynch was safe – saved by rescuers who risked it all to bring her out.

I'm Ron Hutchcraft and I want to have **A WORD WITH YOU** today about **“The Day You're Rescued”**.

I’ll never begin to know what it must have been like to be a prisoner of someone like Saddam Hussein’s brutal regime. But I do know a little bit about how it feels to be rescued from a situation that I couldn't get out of, that otherwise would have been fatal. I know what it is to be rescued by someone who risked it all; actually, who gave it all, to bring me out. It’s a life-saving experience shared by millions of people over 2,000 years. It's a rescue that can happen to you.

This rescue was planned in heaven and executed by no one less than the very Son of God, Jesus Christ. It’s described by God Himself in Colossians 1:13-14, our word for today from the Word of God. It says of God that “He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

We don’t realize it, but we are in as deadly a situation as that rescued POW was in – actually a lot more deadly, because without a rescue we will be imprisoned forever in an awful place the Bible calls hell. That’s where the death penalty is carried out for a human being who has run their own life instead of letting their Creator run it. Who has dared to say, "God, you run the universe. I'll run me." Which, according to the Bible, describes all of us, no matter how religious we might be, and no matter what religion we’re from. We’re sinners. We are unable to get ourselves out of our own dark side, we're unable to get ourselves out of the penalty for our sin. We are trapped in what the Bible calls “the dominion of darkness.”

But Jesus came, fighting his way to rescue us. Dying on a cross to pay the penalty we deserve, so we could have (as the Bible says) “the forgiveness of sins” instead of the punishment for our sins. No religion can get you out – only a rescue can. And only Jesus did what had to be done to rescue you. This very day – maybe through these very words – He is breaking into your life, offering to be your personal Rescuer from your personal sin and its eternal penalty. If you’ll grab Jesus by His hand and just say, “Jesus, You're my only hope. You paid for my sins when you died on the cross. You proved you're alive by walking out of your grave. I want you to walk into my life today. Beginning today, I am Yours, Jesus.”

Don't you want to know that you're right with God? Don't you want to know that eternity is settled? If you want to know you belong to this Rescuer that loves you more than anyone ever could, let this be the day you give yourself to Him.

Let this be the day that you check out a website that is all for you at a moment like this. It is literally designed for this crossroads moment in a person's life - ANewStory.com. I invite you, I urge you, I encourage you to go there as soon as you can.

Jesus paid the ultimate price; made the ultimate sacrifice to bring you out. The strong hand of your Redeemer; I wish you could actually see it. He's reaching for you right now. Please – grab Him now.

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