

Women & More

An Outrageous Fortune

September 22, 2011

Professor and author J. I. Packer makes this astounding statement: “To be a Christian is an outrageous fortune!” What on earth made him put these two opposing words together—*outrageous* and *fortune*—to describe being a Christ-follower?

“Credit where credit is not due...

Simply put: The cost of your sins is more than you can pay.

The gift of your God is more than you can imagine.”

Max Lucado

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

Psalm 139:1-6

Ephesians 1:7-8

Philippians 4:19

Hebrews 10:23

1 John 2:2

Scripture to Memorize:

Romans 8:1-2 *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”*

NOTES on Speaking Session:

Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:

1. Do you struggle with understanding what it means to be a Christ-follower—a Christian?
In two to three sentences share these concerns?

2. In what ways do you know you're fortunate to be a Christian and feel fortunate—naming at least six?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____

3. Are there some things about being a Christian that you know you're fortunate in but don't particularly feel fortunate about? What are those?

4. What are some things that you had to give up to become a Christ-follower?

Recommended Reading:

In The Grip of Grace, Max Lucado
Knowing God, J. I. Packer
The Purpose-Driven Life, Rick Warren

The Parable of the Shepherd

Reference: Luke 15:4-6

Where are you going, Shepherd?
To find my sheep.

How far will you go?
As far as my sheep.

How far may that be?
To the world's end.

How long will you seek it?
Until I find it.

When you find it, will it come to you?
No. It will flee from me.

Where will it go then?
To the rocks and sand.

When will it stop?
When it can run no more.

What will you do then?
I will carry it home!

Anonymous

Hymn-writer Fanny J. Crosby penned these poignant words in 1869:

Women & More Discipleship (Followship) Ministry
Grace—September 22, 2011—jmoore

VERSES:

1. “**Rescue** the perishing, care for the dying.
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o’er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of **Jesus, the mighty to save.**

2. “Though they are slighting Him, **still He is waiting,**
Waiting the penitent child to receive;
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently,
He will forgive if they only believe.

3. “Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that **grace can restore;**
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more.

4. “**Rescue** the perishing, duty demands it—
Strength for thy labor **the Lord will provide,**
Back to the narrow way patiently win them,
Tell the poor wanderer a Savior has died.

CHORUS:

“**Rescue** the perishing,
Care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful,
Jesus will save!”