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Free!

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“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.” Hebrews 7:25-27

Free!

The fellowship hall bustled with activity, the aroma of food embraced us like a warm blanket on a cold day in Collegedale. This past Sabbath my husband and I attended a leadership luncheon with at least one hundred other volunteers. And while enjoying our meal, catching up with friends, and prayerfully dreaming about the future of our church and our local community we were suddenly interrupted in the most pleasant way!

A tiny adorable little girl with a pink bow in her hair approached me ever so meek and mild, stretched out her hand towards me and offered me a homemade paper airplane. “Do you want one?” she enthusiastically inquired. “It’s free!” she exclaimed. Of course, I wanted one! If not for the same purpose she might have envisioned of me flying the airplane around the room in the middle of our meeting, I wanted one just because she was the willing giver! Something about that innocent, beautiful exchange sat percolating in my mind all afternoon once we left our meeting. I just couldn’t get her tiny voice out of my head: “It’s free! It’s free!”

I wonder if the Savior Jesus Christ is calling out to you and to me, “Here is salvation! My blood spilt for you! It’s free! Here’s my unconditional, unending, relentless love for you! There’s no strings attached. It’s free! Here’s my peace that passes all understanding, a peace that the world cannot give to you. It’s free! Here’s joy! Unspeakable joy! It’s free!”

With an outstretched hand towards us Jesus is offering you all these things and more, so much more! Would you like to accept His gift? Do you want it? It’s free! Yours for the taking! As we continue Student Week of Prayer “Bare Feet, Holy Ground” this evening at 8pm in the University Church, I pray these words over you, and over, me and over our campus:

“For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 2:14-21

May you be richly blessed as you make the Main Thing, the main thing this week.

-Pastor Anna Bennett

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