

**THE LIFEGUARD**  
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A little girl asked her dad to play a game with her. “Sure,” replied her dad. “What’s the game?” She replied back, “It’s called Lifeguard and here is how it’s played. You go out in the pool a little way and face me. Then I will swim out to you and rescue you.” Her dad replied, “Okay; let’s play,” and then he waded out in the swimming pool a short distance. The reason she wanted to play Lifeguard was because she was learning to swim.

After several rounds of his daughter swimming out to him he noticed that she was getting tired. To him it felt like they had played the game 300 times and he was tired too. The little girl said, “Hey dad, let’s change the game and you come to me.” Dad replied, “Not a problem.”

Let’s look at this differently. Jesus is the Lifeguard. He didn’t wait for us to come to Him. He came to us. “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10) “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.” (John 15:16) This is the charge He gave the apostles and us.

Normally, we think of a lifeguard as someone sitting in a tall chair overlooking either the pool or the ocean, keeping watch in case, they are needed. Our spiritual Lifeguard (Jesus) didn’t wait just in case someone needed Him. He knew we were drowning in sin and came to give us life because we couldn’t save ourselves. We needed a Lifeguard to rescue us.

We do not have to drown. We certainly can be saved by accepting the Lifeguard as our rescuer. We cannot save ourselves. Our Lifeguard (Jesus) was crucified, buried, and on the third day He arose just as He said He would.

The apostle Peter reminds us, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” (I Peter 2:9) Folks, this is us who He has called out of the drowning darkness of sin to His marvelous light.

It may appear to be silly to equate Jesus to a lifeguard. A lifeguard watches and responds when a person is in trouble and possibly drowning. That person needs someone to save them. They need a savior. Guess what? We need a Savior too.

Mankind needs a Savior who will give him eternal life. That Savior is Jesus Christ. The apostle John wrote, “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.” (I John 4:14) Luke stated it this way: “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

Notice the difference between a lifeguard and Jesus. The lifeguard comes and rescues the person drowning. Jesus comes and offers a rescue, but He does not force anyone to be rescued from drowning in sin. The person who realizes the need for Jesus and allows Him to rescue them will be saved.

The parable of the Prodigal Son is an example of one realizing the need for Jesus and seeking Him out. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So, he divided his wealth between them. <sup>13</sup> And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. <sup>14</sup> Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished." (Luke 15:12-14)

The younger son went out into the world. He enjoyed the good life with all of his friends. Things were good until a famine came. The young man had spent all of his inheritance and had to take a job feeding pigs. It couldn't have been any worse than this. Not only feeding the pigs, but having to eat the same food as they did. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup> And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him." (Luke 15:15-16)

So often people have to come to a low point in their life and then realize they need a Savior. They have been in the world and enjoyed all that it has to offer, not thinking about the pitfalls and how sins drag you down and entangle you. Some feel hopeless and do not see a way out and take their life. Satan paints such a beautiful picture of life in the world. The problem is his picture is a lie that leads to destruction. If only people would come to the realization as the Prodigal Son did. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" (Luke 15:17-19) He realized his mistake and came to his father seeking forgiveness. The Savior is waiting if you are seeking a Savior. "for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate." (Luke 15:24) That same celebration will be for you because you were lost and have been found. Have a blessed week.

Lord, I Need You:

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