

Drop the Toys

by Caleb James Davison



There's a beautiful old British home amidst the vast tea fields of Limuru, Kenya. This particular home, however, is not your typical residence. It's a refuge for babies who were completely abandoned. Before being rescued, most of the children had been left with strangers, deserted in hospitals, or put in ditches to die.

While my wife worked at the baby home, I'd often stop by to spend time with the kids. I became particularly fond of a two-year old boy named Benjamin. He was a cute kid with a pudgy face and a distinct wobble in his walk. Benjamin had a unique fascination with toy cars, so every once in a while I'd let him sit in the driver seat of my SUV and he'd pretend to drive.

I'll never forget one afternoon when I came to visit the home. When I entered the main room, Benjamin was on the far side playing with other kids. As soon as he saw me, his face lit up. Like slow motion in a movie, he dropped the toys in his hands and ran straight towards me with a huge grin on his face. I stretched out my arms, gave him a huge bear hug, and lifted him up. The staff stood frozen, watching the scene in awe.

Without saying a word, Benjamin had told me that I was more valuable than anything else in the room. I was more important to him than his games, his friends, even his toy cars. Benjamin could have simply smiled at me or invited me to play with him. He even could have brought his toys over to me. Instead, he dropped everything to get to me as fast as possible because in that moment all he wanted was to be with me.

I learned a profound lesson that day. You see, I am Benjamin before God. I am a child saved from death and I have been given new life. In fact, all who are in Christ are brought into the Father's home because he wants nothing more than to be with

us. Yet we are so consumed with the comparatively trivial “toys” around us that we often miss the joy of the Father’s presence, the most wonderful place on earth.

The Bible says in Matthew 19 that children came to Jesus while he was ministering. I imagine them running to him with smiles of great expectation. But the disciples, misunderstanding the heart of Christ, rebuked the children. In verse 14, Jesus turns and lovingly speaks to his followers, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Jesus’ message is clear for us today. God desires to be with his children and he wants for us to come like Benjamin came to me. But, in our pursuit of God, we must let go of our insignificant fascinations, which will only hold us back. The world stands watching to see where our true affection lies. The question is: Will you drop the toys and run to the Father?