



I Want That One

A Story Of Compassion by Charles Stanley

I heard a story once about a farmer who had some puppies for sale. He made a sign advertising the pups and nailed it to a post on the edge of his front garden. As he was nailing the sign to the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down to see a little boy with a big grin and something in his hand.

“Mister,” he said, “I want to buy one of your puppies.”

“Well,” said the farmer, “these puppies come from fine parent and cost a good deal.”

The boy dropped his head for a moment, then looked back up at the farmer and said, “I’ve got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?”

“Sure,” said the farmer, and with that he whistled and called out, “Dolly. Here, Dolly.” Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy’s eye danced with delight.

Then out from the doghouse peeked another little ball; this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid and began hobbling in an unrewarded attempt to catch up with the others. The pup was clearly the runt of the litter.

The little boy pressed his face to the fence and cried out, “I want that one!” pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt down and said, “Son, you don’t want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you the way you would like.”

With that the boy reached down and slowly pulled up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking up at the farmer, he said, “You see, sir, I don’t run too well myself, and *he will need someone who understands.*”

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Thoughts on Heb. 4:15-16

by Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Christ was tempted without sin—*tested* without sin. In the testing of Jesus in the wilderness, He could not have fallen because He is the God-man. **But** He *was* tested, and for that reason **He knows how we feel. We have a High Priest who understands us.**

We have a Great High Priest who is always available, and He does understand. He does not just understand us theoretically; He was tested down here, and He was “touched with the feeling of our infirmities.” He knew what it was to be hungry. He knew what it was to be touched with sorrow—Jesus wept! He was “touched with the feeling of our infirmities ... yet without sin.”

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace.” I have never really liked our translation of “boldly,” but neither do I know how to change it. The word *boldly*, as we use it, has the

thought of being brazen, or flippant. That is not really the idea in this verse. It is a very interesting word in the Greek—*parrhesia*. It denotes the freedom of speech which the Athenians prized so highly. They were perhaps the first to feel that the average citizen should have freedom to speak.

“Let us therefore come [with great freedom] unto the throne of grace.” We can speak freely to the Lord Jesus Christ. I can tell Him things that I cannot tell you. He understands me. He knows my weaknesses, and I might just as well tell Him. I have learned to be very honest with Him. I have not attempted to become buddy-buddy with Him—I despise that approach. **He is God, and I come to Him in worship and with reverence. But** I am free to speak, I can tell Him what is on my heart. I can open my heart to Him. I suspect that pious and flowery

prayers are not impressive to Him—especially when we are attempting to cover up what is in our hearts and lives.

“Unto the throne of grace.” God’s throne is a throne of grace. Formerly a throne of judgment, it is now a mercy seat, a throne of grace.

“That we may obtain mercy.” We need a lot of mercy.

“And find grace to help in time of need.” David wrote, “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Ps. 23:1). Because the Lord is my Shepherd. I have a High Priest in Heaven, and I can go to Him as my Shepherd.

Have you been to Him yet today? What did you tell Him? Did you tell Him that you love Him? Did you confess your sins to Him? Well, why don’t you? He already knows about it. Why don’t you tell Him?

Go to Him with freedom and talk to Him—there is mercy and grace to help in time of need.