

E-DEVOTION FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

During this time of 'staying at home' we've been watching a lot of movies. Some are excellent. Some just plain stink. When we watch a movie that is not particularly good... we'll look at each other when it's over and say... "Well, that was just a complete waste of our time." I'm imagining that many of you have had a similar experience.

We watched a movie the other night that was about a man whose child was kidnapped and he was asked to pay a large ransom. He didn't hesitate for a moment. His immediate response was... "No price is too high! I will pay anything to get my child back!"

Those words have played in my mind. No price is too high... I will pay anything to get my child BACK. In Matthew 20:28, Jesus says... "*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to be serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.*"

What was God thinking? He **gave** His Son. No price was too high. This wasn't a deal done in a back room somewhere... here's the money... now you get your Son back. No, this was a brutal struggle. A test between good and bad. A battle played out on a hill. And for what? For folks such as you and I?

It's just so unbelievable. But I believe it. Because the Father's love is that great. You could watch that in a movie and say... "Great scene! He gave up his only son. Played very well." But this is real life. This is when the Father sent his Son to us... to you and to me. Paid the ransom. Every day I just marvel at that fact.

So, go with this thought... God so loved this world, this messy, complicated world... and EVERYONE in it... that He gave us His only Son. As the body of believers, THIS is the message we can carry into that world... To serve and love one another. 'Not to be served... but to serve.' Find a way to serve... show compassion... exhibit grace... let this be what they say about us... "*See how they LOVE one another.*" No price... too high.

And wash your hands, fold them... bow your head. Give thanks for the Greatest Story Ever Told.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Son. Forgive us our shortcomings, our pettiness, our distrust of one another. Grant us courage to show your love in all the ways we can. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pastor Ken Nyhusmoen