

## HAVE YOU HEARD?



You have probably heard the story of Jonah in the belly of a great big fish, but have you heard Jonah tell it? How about the story of Daniel in the lions' den? Have you ever heard Daniel tell the story? Maybe you remember the story about Noah and the ark, but have you ever heard Noah tell it? One day I was told, "Your little sister might be tugging on the hem of Daniel's clothes asking him to tell her the story of when he was thrown into a den of lions and how the Lord shut the lions' mouths. She will be able to ask Noah what it was like to be on the ark with all of the animals. She will also get to hear Jonah talk about when he was in the belly of the great big fish."

That was how my Dad told me that my little sister had passed away.

My sister's name is Charity Leigh Matthews. She was born March 16, 2000. After she was born, the Doctor told my Dad to look at her left hand. He showed my dad that she had only one crease on her left hand (most people have two creases). He also showed my Dad that Charity's neck was shorter than usual. Then the Doctor had to tell my Dad that both of these were signs that she had Down Syndrome.

We learned in the following days that she also had leukemia. Charity's life on earth was filled with pain, and she was constantly being stuck with needles.

Charity spent most of her life in the hospital except for the three times that she was able to come home.



The last time Charity came home, my Mom noticed that Charity had a hole in the skin on her arm. She soon noticed that the spot was growing and eating away at my little sister's flesh. My parents quickly got her to the hospital and she was never able to come back home.

Charity slowly passed away in my mother's arms about 12 weeks after she was born. Charity went from my mother's arms into God's arms. I cannot wait until I am able to see Charity again.

I wonder if you will be able to meet my little sister in heaven? And I wonder, will you be able to hear Daniel, Noah and Jonah tell their stories?

The only way to heaven is to be saved. You might be asking "How can I be saved?" 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This verse means that if you will admit that you are a sinner and are sorry for your sins, the Lord will forgive you and cleanse away all of your sins.

You might say that you have never sinned. Well, Romans 3:10 says "...There is none righteous, no, not one:" and Romans 3:23 states "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Did you notice that little, three-letter word? **All** does not just mean your friend or neighbor; it means everybody, including you. Each one of us has sinned.

After you realize that you are a sinner you must believe that Jesus Christ died to pay for your sins. Romans 5:8 says "...but God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Even though we are sinners and deserve an eternity in hell to pay for our own sins, Jesus still chose to love us and because he loves us, He took the punishment for you and for me.

Romans 6:23 says “For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Jesus Christ paid for your sin so you wouldn’t have too.

So, how can you be “saved”? Romans 10:9-10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” If you confess your sins to Jesus, He will forgive you. This verse does not say that the Lord might forgive you or that he will only forgive certain people. If you confess your sins, He will forgive you.

If you will do these three things, admit you’re a sinner, believe Jesus died for you, and confess your sins to Him, He will give you eternal life and you will be saved.

Now that YOU  
have HEARD,  
What will YOU  
DO about it?

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