

Rescued

Another week has passed, and it is time to write again. The days pass so quickly. If you are like me, you will wonder where the time goes, and maybe more significantly, what have we done? At the weekend I had a birthday party, and friends came round, so I decided to do some baking, and made apple and blackberry pies. Most 'bakers' will say that when they are baking a flan, cake, pie or whatever for a special occasion, the results are often not as good, or not up to the usual standard, as they are when made just for an ordinary day. However, overall, I was pleased with my efforts. There is usually a 'reject' sausage roll my husband can try, but even they all turned out ok.



Yet I did have one mishap. As I was taking out an apple pie from the oven it slipped from my hand and fell onto the drop-down oven door. With a loud CRASH, glass onto glass, my immediate vision was smashed glass and apple pie everywhere. Yet I reacted quickly. As I looked, the pie had only slightly slipped off the plate, miraculously nothing had broken, and I was able to 'slide' the pie back onto the plate and rescue it. Phew, what a relief I thought. Saved.

OK, so it looked rather squashed and very much mis-shaped, and not at all how it should be, but at least it was still whole and edible. Maybe not for our guests, but certainly not worth throwing away. Showing it to my hubby, he said even our friends could eat it if we were short. All was not lost, yet it could have been so much worse. Hot steaming apple pie all over the oven door, my hands, and kitchen floor, with shards and splinters of glass everywhere. What a mess. Phew again!

How often have you or I rescued something, someone or some situation which could have been so much worse had we not intervened?

My husband's late father once rescued a woman from the river Ouse, many years ago now. It was the headline in the 'Goole Times'. Maurice was recognised for his bravery and received a certificate from the Royal Humane Society. We have the certificate on our living room wall.

We hear numerous stories of brave soldiers, men and women, and others in the Royal forces who during the past wars, and still in present situations today, put their own lives at risk by saving someone else. The emergency services' men and women are more examples.

Perhaps we shall never be required to carry out such major rescues, but on a day-to-day basis, there are people we can help by being there for them and offering an encouraging word or helping hand.

And not let's forget that, in God's eyes and the Christian sense of the word, each one of us needs rescuing. The Bible tells us clearly that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3 v 23). The word sin means 'missing the mark'. It's like a crossbow and arrow. If the arrow that is shot misses the target by half a metre or half a millimetre, it has still missed the mark. It doesn't matter how near one gets; the result is the same. A miss is a miss. So, when God gave us the 10 commandments in the Old Testament, they were impossible for anyone to keep. They were given by God to show us His standards and glory, and how on our own we will fail. But all is not lost. We have Jesus!

Remember that well known Bible verse describing God's love for the world and his plan for salvation: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3 v 16.

Let us think for a moment about the 2 thieves who were crucified at the same time as Jesus. They both mocked at first, then one asked Jesus to have mercy on him, and Jesus said he would be with him in paradise.

We see here very clearly that salvation is a gift from God. The repentant thief did not have time for good deeds. He could not repay those he had stolen from, help the poor, or be baptised or confirmed. He did not have a sophisticated faith. All he could do was look upon the Saviour's face, and with faith, ask for mercy. That's all he needed, and he was saved.

Had he known the wonderful life Jesus could have offered him before, he probably would have wished he had turned to Jesus earlier in his life.

Don't let us wait until it is too late. Jesus came to save us. He wants to rescue us now, so that He can bless us beyond our imagination.

Eileen

EC. 21.10.24