WEIGHTLIFTING SURPRISE

Have you heard about weightlifting? It’s a sport commonly known for lifting heavy weights. The strongest athletes participate in this sport. During the Tokyo Olympics in 2020, two of the champions were from Ecuador. 23 year old, Neisi Dajones won the gold medal for lifting a total of 264kg, can you believe it? That is equivalent to a total of a little more than 5 cement bags. The woman to win the silver medal also lifted a ton of weight. Her name is Tamara Salazar. The victory of these two women was a wonderful surprise for all of Ecuador, who won through their efforts historic medals. Neisi and Tamara come from humble beginnings, but their victories filled the entire nation of Ecuador with joy. Their accomplishment had a very significant impact. It doesn’t matter where you were born, or from what family you came from, you are a special person to God. Always remember who you are.

This story brings to mind one of the most fascinating and beautiful stories told in the Bible, the story of Queen Esther (Esther 2:1-2). Esther was an orphan who lived in captivity in a country where she was taken to against her will. God wanted her to become a queen. In God’s eyes, Esther had always been a princess. Although she was an enslaved orphan, she was a princess. A child of God. God wanted to remind her who she was. Just like with queen Esther, God wants you to come to Him so He can remind you who you are. The word of God says, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” (1 John 3:1)

GOD CREATED YOU

We are children of God because He created us. The Bible states, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27). This verse is beautiful and very significant. It tells us where we come from. You and I have been created by God. God made us in His image and likeness. All of humanity is one family, the family of God, and in His eyes we are very special.

SIN BROUGHT PAIN AND SUFFERING

God created all things and did so perfectly. Can you imagine what the world was like? There was no suffering, nor was there death. When God finished created humanity the Bible tells us that God saw that it was good (Genesis 1:31). Solomon the wise said that God made everything beautiful in His time and in man’s heart placed the desire for eternity (Ecclesiastes 3:11). However, everything changed when sin entered the picture. It is written, “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.” (Romans 5:12). Sin brought with it suffering, sickness, and death. Sin separates us from God and makes us forget who we are and where we come from. The prophet Isaiah wrote, “ But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”(Isaiah 59:2)

JESUS CAME TO RESTORE THE IMAGE OF GOD IN YOU

The good news is that God designed a special plan to save humanity. Jesús explained it in this way, “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 3:16). **“**For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10).

What good news! Jesús came to save you and me. He came to remind us of who we are, where we come from, and who we belong to. He came to restore the image of God in each one of His children. He came so that we could be reconciled with God, and for this reason invites you to accept Him and give your heart to Him. The beloved disciple John tells us, “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—” (John 1:12). When you accept Christ and believe in Him, receiving Him, He gives you this beautiful gift of becoming a child of God. Jesus invites you by saying: Child, remember who you are. You are a Child of God, you belong to Him and He wants you to give your heart to Him.

Have you ever heard of Mephibosheth? He was born a prince. His grandfather was a king of Israel named Saul and his father was Jonathan, an heir. After a battle with the Philistines, the small prince lost his father, mother, grandfather, and all he had. He lost all of his inheritance, prestiges, and the saddest thing of all, he lost his self worth. HIs heart was filled with sadness and he could no longer walk because of an injury.

One day, Mephibosheth, who was already an adult, got the great news that the King David had sent for him. When Mephibosheth arrived before king David, he felt unworthy, he felt that he was nothing and that his life had no value. King David told him to not be afraid, and to remember who he was. In David 's eyes, Mephibosheth was a very important person, a prince, and the son of his best friend Jonathan. David restored Mephibosheth as prince, adopting him as his own son and told him, “Mephibosheth, you will live in the palace, dress like a prince, eat with the king, and I will reinstate your inheritance.

What a wonderful experience! This is what Jesus does for us, He has restored us with His love, power, and through Him, God receives us as His children and makes us heirs to all of God’s promises and blessings. The Bible says that all who receive Jesus and believe in His name are called children of God (John 1:12). The apostle John says, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” (1 John 3:1). All of this takes place when we give our lives to Jesus and accept Him as our Savior.

INVITATION

Would you like to come to Jesus today and give Him your heart? Remember that you are special to God, important and His child. The Lord says, “Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you…”(Isaiah 43:4) God invites you today, “My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways…” (Proverbs 23:26)