

The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:

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That's How Much He Cared

He left the glories of heaven behind to unselfishly humble Himself, in order to perform the greatest act of love and sacrifice the world has ever known (Phil. 2:5-11). He came to save His people from their sins (Mt. 1:21, Jn. 1:11). He spent His entire earthly life doing good, healing all that were oppressed of the devil, and sharing the Gospel with everyone (Acts 10:38, Mt.11:5). He never did anything wrong, He never said anything wrong (1 Pet. 2:22), but still they hated Him, for His teaching challenged their comfortable religious hypocrisy. He came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10), and the lost thanked Him for His efforts by nailing Him to a Roman cross for sins He didn't commit.

Wonderful Jesus (Isaiah 9:6)! How desperately I need His love, His mercy, His grace, and His strength every hour that I live. That great old hymn by **Robert Lowry** reminds me of my destitute condition without Him by my side:

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
I need Thee every hour, stay thou near by. Temptations lose their power, when Thou art nigh.
I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain; come quickly and abide, or life is vain.
I need Thee every hour, most Holy One. O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son!
I need Thee, O I need Thee; every hour I need Thee! O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee!

My eyes get leaky and tears run down my cheeks whenever we sing that beautiful song. Think back to that horrible day nearly twenty centuries ago. What if Jesus had turned His back on the cross rather than allowing Himself to be nailed to it? He could have walked away. He had more than 72,000 angels at His beck and call (Mt. 26:53), and all the omnipotent power of God at His disposal. I've always thought just half of an angel would have been enough to obliterate that team of testers who trumped up the travesty of His trials and tribulation that fateful day. He could have toasted His tormentors with a lightning bolt or two, and just laid down the cross, rather than His life (Jn. 10:18). But, instead of hurling curses at his captors, or vaporizing that lynch mob of vipers, Jesus bowed His head and uttered the humble plea, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34). That's how much He cared! How much do you care about Him?

David A. McCain