

“Dada”

Jeanette Clift George tells of flying from Tucson to Phoenix. During the flight, she noticed across the aisle a young mom with her baby daughter. Mother and daughter were wearing crisp, white pinafores. The mother was smiling and the baby was saying, “Dada, Dada.” She had a little pink bow where someday she was going to have hair and anytime anybody walked by, she greeted them with, “Dada, Dada.” Jeanette concluded, “I think I know who is going to be there waiting when this plane lands: Dada.” Meanwhile the baby was the magnet of everyone’s attention on the plane.

The mom had a baby bottle filled with orange juice. It turned out to be a rough flight and when the baby got fussy, the mom would pacify her with the bottle of orange juice.

The flight became even more turbulent. Seat belts were buckled and flight attendants had to take their seats. Soon all the fruit juice that had gone down the baby, came back up until it seemed there was more up than there was in her. The rest of the passengers were not in good condition, Jeanette observed. As the plane was pitching back and forth, Jeanette kept reaching into her purse and handing tissues to the mom. Finally, the plane landed and instantly the baby was fine and again saying, “Dada, Dada.”

Jeanette looked out the window and spotted a man that had to be “Dada.” He was a young man in white slacks, white shirt, carrying white flowers wrapped in green paper. Jeanette thought, “This ought to be interesting. He’s going to come running and see that messy baby and keep right on running and say, ‘That’s not my kid, that’s not my kid!’”

Jeanette writes, “As he ran to the young mother, I wouldn’t say she threw the baby at him, but she did kind of leave quickly to go get cleaned up. This young man picked up that baby, and I watched him as he hugged that baby and kissed that baby and stroked that baby’s hair. He said, ‘Daddy’s baby has come home. Daddy’s baby has come home.’”

“All the way to the baggage claim area, he never stopped kissing that baby. He never stopped welcoming that baby home. I thought, ‘Where did I ever get the idea that my Father God is less loving than a young daddy in white slacks and white shirt with white flowers wrapped in green paper?’” *

In Jesus’ beautiful Parable of the Lost Son, when the father (representing God) saw the form of his prodigal son (representing you) coming home, he

“had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him” (Luke 15:20). He joyfully welcomed his wayward son home.

Jesus, God’s Son, gave His life on the cross to pay the price for your redemption from sin (Ephesians 1:7). If you will accept His offer of salvation and eternal life, you can be welcomed into God’s family as His child.

God will save, give eternal life, and welcome into His family those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin and ready for an eternal home those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

No matter how messy your life may be, God longs for you to come home to Him. Come on home. Your Father is waiting for you.

-- David A. Sargent

* From Illustrations in www.preaching.com.