

Zach Walker

7 April 2013

Peace of Disney

“Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness combined with our faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God’s glory. But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn’t put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

Last year, my Youth Choir from Colorado took a trip to Six Flags, everybody spent the summer day in good ol’ Texas heat. Trying to stay cool and be calm in the midst of the theme park is also quite the test, but the real test came once you got to the end of the line, right at the gate, ready to board the minute long adrenaline rush called a roller coaster. That space between certainty and false bravery, when you have the one last option to chicken out, before you are strapped in for good, and have nowhere else to go but up. I feel like I’ve seen a hundred sermons, heard it all, knew the plan, saw a formula...truth is, Im just along for the ride...buckled in, with my own plan and scripture, lesson and examples, yet Im that guy at Six Flags you always see concentrating on his feet, insuring all the screws are tight, and focusing on his breathing...That’s where I am right now, looking out at all the people hundreds of feet below, waiting to see if I’ll throw my hands up, have fun, or scream like a girl...we’ll both have to wait and see

Today’s lesson comes from Paul, in a letter to the Romans. Paul reiterates the glory of Easter and the power of grace God gave to us. He wrote in a time of revelation, when Christianity was in its coffee house ministry stage, Paul was responsible for the slowly spreading Christian wildfire across the Mediterranean; it was a big deal in the 50s. Today we celebrate the life of the Church, and the resurrected body, read from the Epistles and learn about Grace and Love, thank you Paul. Today, a week after Easter, we are still in that celebratory mood the cross and the Easter Bunny brought about... and now here we are looking forward, We have triumphed and overcome sin, with Jesus we are now saved, through grace we have peace...peace...peace is a gift that is now our state of being...or is it? Are you at peace, do you feel in mental calm, serenity with no anxiety? Is work getting to ya? Or maybe the dreaded b-word that hangs around the dinner table... Bills? Or quite possibly grades? Even family or maybe you still aren’t over Baylor’s loss in Basketball. Paul encourages us that it is through these “problems”, we should take pride. But that honestly sounds counter intuitive, “we should be proud of having stress, pain, and fear”?

Peace is something easy to define, but hard to find for everybody, as it changes for each individual. For some, it’s a walk on the beach, or hiking in the mountains, laying in front of the

TV on Saturday morning, a nice dinner with the family, in the words “I Love You”, or even in the football game. To each their own. As an Athletic Trainer I see a lot of injuries, a lot of booboos, hurt prides, and absolute miracles. Everyday it’s something new, somebody tore some ligament, scratched some knee, or twisted some ankle...but every day it always seems to be business as usual, treating accordingly, and finding time to be with my patients, and learning a thing or two. In college no athlete wants to spend an extended period of time in my Athletic Training room, because that means less time doing what they love, and more pressure from the coaches, academics, and ultimately on themselves. No Athlete that I have ever met in the 5 years I’ve been an Athletic trainer have ever celebrated an injury, in fact its typically followed with explicative language and one question, “when can I play again?”. Athletic Training is a process, a mending, rehabilitation, and overcoming sports problems, it is to the physical body, what Jesus did for our soul. In sports these changes are made, the athlete is different, better, recovered, and put back into their place...their place of peace, where they do as they please, compete, win, living in their sport, at peace. Paul wrote that through our problems, our injuries, whether they be mental, physical, or spiritual, they have a higher purpose, to lead us through our rehab, to build our endurance, to test our character, and to believe in the prognosis, the future.

Trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

When I first read this I thought of all the characters in my life, all the people, and players, friends and family, in fact the more I thought into it, the more I realized something. That although Im a college student, independent, working, and studying 1000 miles away from home...im still a kid...and I recognized this because I immediately thought of ... one name, that is responsible, and made it all possible...Disney. My life is filled with characters: Tiggers, Mary Poppins, Mater, Goofys, and the occasional Princess. I understand what real trouble is like, and after every storm, im enlightened once again, I am able find that peace. It has occurred to me, that this process was something that was taught to me so long ago, subconsciously and honestly. Looking back, using my perspective, I’d like to share them with you how Disney taught me, in hopes that your peace can be accessed, easy than using a spoonful of sugar, wishing on a star, having happy thoughts, or having 7 dwarves to follow and protect you.



1. The story of the demigod Hercules, growing up and going through life to find where he belongs.

Hercules' story, is fun, tragic, ridiculous, but inspiring. He has to deal to with monsters, gods, the Hydra, a centaur and little demons, all while having to discover who he is, what he is capable of and learn that he true source of strength is love. His parents' love, his friends, and the damsel in distress. They all support arndprovide Hercules with the ability to choose and to become the person he dreamed, the legend, and the one to go the distance. It is Love that can fuel our passion, our dreams, and desires, and it is the people we surround ourselves with that can help us go further in life.

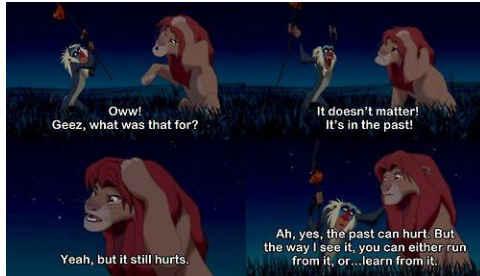


2. A girl travels through a mysteriously crazy world, looking for her way back home, but only going deeper into the rabbit hole and facing the wicked Queen of hearts.
Alice is lost, taking turns, going directions, and falling further into the crazy world. She has so much around her, so many things, so many opportunities, meeting so many people, and trying to do the best for herself. It's a crazy world, filled with, mad people, crazy situations, and occasionally a Queen who'll take your head off. Its up to us to do what's right, and make the most of the time we're given in Wonderland.



3. Looking to save his ant colony, the accident prone Flik searches for the answer to the problems he's created. He finds circus bugs who arent the heroes he was looking for.

Flik is trying to be a helpful member of his family, providing and innovating. But he makes a mistake, a big mistake, and instead of running away, he stands up, and tries to make it right. He reaches out, and finds friends, people (well bugs) that are willing to back him up, and protect him and his way of life when he needed it most. They aren't like his family, they're outsiders, they're weird, and eclectic; but have so much to offer, and they become the next best things to heroes, his friends.



4. Haunted by the past Simba is the true king, and it takes the help of a couple misfits to realize his potential.

As an aspiring young king, Simba was destined for greatness, but in a blink of an eye, his kingdom fell from his paws. The past is very influential on our future, it can change our life, and change our course. Looking at our scars can only remind us of the pain, yet all you are looking at is the healed scar tissue. It's a history lesson so we may learn from the past.



5. Beyond our closet doors is the world of monsters, who use scream as a power source. One bedtime changes everything, and Mike and Sully have to fight for their jobs, and their world. Fear is a powerful creation, and can cause a lot of sleepless nights, the shadows and darkness, the uncertainty is our own nightmare. Mike and Sully find that Laughter is the true power, 10 times more powerful than scream, and a whole lot more enjoyable. The best part of laughter is its

infectious property, it spreads, making you and the people around happier, helping you forget about the monsters in your closet, even if only for a while.



6. The young Arthur is a wiry young man, full of aspiration and curiosity, and with the guidance of Merlin, he will become the legendary king of England.
The teenaged Arthur has a lot on his plate, balancing a squire position, maintaining a castle, and being under the wing of the extraordinary Merlin. Taking in as much as he can handle and then some, Arthur is forced to learn on the fly, taking lessons from squirrels, witches, owls, and fish, seeing the all the hidden teachings. Education is a gift, relish it in from everywhere, even if it means from a crazy old man.



7. When we are gone, our toys have lives of their own, they see everything. Woody is the leader of the Andy's toys, and after a birthday party, he is left to contend for the favorite toy spot, and the feud leads to an adventure, which leads to friendship and learning valuable lesson, every boy, girl and toy should know.

They are a lot of different people in the world, we all have our own back story, our own catch phrase, and maybe a special trick on our sleeve. Like Buzz and Woody, two worlds collide, but in the interest of Andy they manage to find common ground and fight for each other, instead of against. Interacting with people is a gift given from God, building relationships to overcome, the little things, or the catastrophic adventures. And just because someone looks like they come from out of this world doesn't mean they can't see where you are coming from.



8. A series of stories following Winnie the Pooh and his close friends, and Christopher Robin, in the fabulous Hundred Acre Wood.

Winnie the Pooh, is a surprising simple minded philosopher, surrounded by an ADHD tigger, a depressed donkey, a panic ridden rabbit, and a low self esteemed pig. The real world cartoon characters have some of the best adventures. They can cooperate despite all their flaws, they always find a way. Whether its to the honey, or to Christopher Robin, Pooh, reminds us that in times of trouble and confusion, we should sit down and Think, Think, Think.



9. Football will always have a sacred place in America's heart, it's ability to unify and transform hearts and people is a miracle on its own. The Titans were a team on the brink of revolution, and broke through boundaries thought untouchable.

Although not a cartoon, Titans, is one of the best lessons Disney has provided. A true story of swaying a nation, and building something deeper than a team, Remember the Titans is humanity at it's finest. People come together, using football as the stage to show diversity wont corrupt, but that unity will only strength a team for their cause. Sometimes change is the only answer that works.

For a kid like me, Disney showed me a whole new world. I gave you 9 short lessons, there are plenty more if you only look for them. No matter what our problems, whether they be fighting the demons, or just trying to play football. These little things can help you get by. Knowing that you can fall back on your friends, surrounding yourself in love. Learning new tricks, and ackonwledging your past no matter how much it hurts. Finding time to Think or seeing the differences of others as a good thing. In the end, you've got to learn from all the characters in your life, they'll produce the hope. The hope of God's love, and it is only through God's love that we will know the true meaning of peace.