



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “Orphan Sunday”

**Ernie Kruger – November 2, 2014**

#### **WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)**

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What’s the most “heroic act” you have done?
- Do you tend to make decisions more emotionally or rationally?
- What’s one of the most pivotal moments in your life that set your life in the right direction?

#### **WORD (10-15 minutes)**

Sermons can be heard online at [bethelbrentwood.org/media](http://bethelbrentwood.org/media).

Ernie Kruger, born and raised in South Africa to an Afrikaans family, came to Christ as a young man, having already achieved success as a professional rugby player. Not long after his conversion, he became aware of the crisis in his own nation regarding orphans, which at the time numbered 3.4 million. Moved with the compassion of Christ, he began to serve in a ministry to orphans in Johannesburg. After marrying, he and his wife adopted a child before having two of their own.

Romans 8:15-17, 23-24 ESV *(Y)ou did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of **adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ... (W)e ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.*

Galatians 4:4-7 ESV *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive **adoption** as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

Ephesians 1:4-6 ESV *In love he predestined us for **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

#### **The Gospel is not cheap.**

Jesus paid an enormous price to accomplish our salvation. Those who follow him are likewise called on to pay the price of obedience that can at times be enormously costly. He laid down his life for us; we are called to lay down our lives for others. God's love has been lavished upon us. Therefore, he calls us to give our love for the sake of others who are in great need. Whether it is orphans or others who are in great need, we cannot turn a deaf ear to their needs, if Christ indeed dwells in us by his Spirit. Each of us is called in some way to make a difference in the lives of others with the love of Christ in our hearts and lives.

## **The Church is crucial.**

It is difficult to make a significant difference by oneself. However, when we team with others in a righteous and godly cause, the results can often be synergistic. This is especially true when the church follows Christ in obedience to make a difference in this world for the sake of what is good, noble, true, righteous, and loving.

Furthermore, the church above all other human organizations and institutions is responsible to act for the benefit of the downtrodden. As the pillar of the truth of God's gospel of salvation, the church understands the message of God's grace expressed in Jesus Christ, who sacrificed his life for the sake of the spiritually downtrodden. No other human organization or institution is exclusively founded on the Gospel.

## **What will you do?**

God calls each of his children to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Although we are not to compare ourselves with one another, we are to spur one another on to good deeds. When we hear of fellow Christians who have made great sacrifices for the sake of others, we should allow ourselves to be inspired and challenged by their example, and so ask ourselves, "How does God want me to give my life away as a sacrifice for others?"

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- What social / spiritual need has God called you to answer?
- Have you been adopted into God's family? Have you received a sense of belonging?
- What have you learned from this lesson? How are you going to apply It to your life?

## **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Pray God will lead you in the way you can support orphans in our nation and outside of it.
- Pray that our church / we will meet the spiritual and social needs of our own community.
- Pray God will bring in more resources, and fashion a heart in his church and his children to give and serve more.