

Be Broken for Jesus

There's a story about a little boy who was poor and in need of shoes. He stood in front of a shoe store, barefoot and shivering with cold. A woman approached him and asked why he was standing there, looking through the window. He told her, "Well, ma'am, I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes."

The woman took the boy into the store, washed his dirty, bare feet and put new socks and shoes on them. The boy was so touched by her care and concern that he asked her, "Ma'am, are you God's wife?" He assumed if she showed him that kind of love, she must be related to God.

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This story is one of the best examples of what it truly means to walk in love. And our goal as believers in Christ is to show God's love so people see Him shining through us every day.

Matthew 26:26 (NIV) says, "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'" We should note that Jesus blessed the bread, broke it and then gave it to the disciples.

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We usually refer to this Scripture when we have Communion to remind us of the sacrifice He made for us. But just as Jesus gave His life and was broken for us, we must be broken so we can live for Him.

We don't like to think about God breaking us, but when we

experience it, we learn that it's really a wonderful thing. Because when we're born again, the seed of God's nature—all that He is—is planted in our spirits.

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A Holiday Discovery: Could This Be the Final Resting Place of Saint Nicholas?

The recent discovery of a limestone sarcophagus at the Church of St. Nicholas in Demre, Antalya, Turkey, has stirred global intrigue just in time for Christmas.

Believed to be the original burial site of Saint Nicholas—the 4th-century bishop whose life inspired the Santa Claus legend—this archaeological find offers a rare glimpse into history. Yet, as we marvel at this discovery, it's essential to reflect on the deeper meaning of Christmas.

According to Associate Professor Ebru Fatma Findik, who leads the “Legacy for the Future Project” under Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the sarcophagus's characteristics align with burial styles from the time. “Our biggest hope is to find an inscription on the sarcophagus,” she said, noting it could confirm its occupant's identity and dating. Measuring two meters in length, with a pitched roof and raised lid, the sarcophagus was uncovered in the church's annex, lending

credibility to its historical significance.

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Saint Nicholas was a man of faith, generosity and miraculous intercessions. Born in the ancient city of Myra (now Demre), he became Bishop of Myra and died in A.D. 343. Over time, his relics were relocated, most notably to Bari, Italy, and Venice. However, this latest discovery suggests that his original resting place was near the very church named after him, as reported by Archaeology News.

“The fact that we have found a sarcophagus near the church, thought to house his tomb, may indicate that this is indeed the sacred area we have been searching for,” Dr. Findik explained. Fragments of clay lamps and animal bones uncovered at the site further attest to its historic use as a burial ground.

While the archaeological findings celebrate Saint Nicholas’ legacy as a patron saint of children and sailors, they also invite a deeper reflection on the true meaning of Christmas. Though the image of Santa Claus has evolved into a symbol of gift-giving and festive cheer, the heart of the holiday is not about material generosity but about the birth of Jesus Christ.

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Christmas commemorates the incarnation of God—the moment when Jesus entered the world to offer salvation to all of humanity. The story of Saint Nicholas, known for his acts of charity, mirrors this divine generosity. Yet, the greater gift lies in the promise of eternal life through Christ. As Luke 2:11 proclaims, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Shrouded in Secrecy: The Ongoing Mystery of US Drones

A tragic shooting at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin, on Monday left three people dead, including a child and the suspected shooter, with several others injured, according to Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes.

The shooting occurred at the nondenominational Christian school, which serves around 390 students from kindergarten through high school. Police have blocked off roads around the school as they continue their investigation.

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“This remains an active and ongoing investigation,” Madison police said in a statement, urging the public to avoid the area. Officers were joined by federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as they worked to process the scene.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers expressed his concern, saying, “We are praying for the kids, educators and entire Abundant Life school community as we await more information and are grateful

for the first responders.”

Details on the motive for the attack and the identities of the victims have not yet been released.

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A Call to Prayer

As this community begins to work through the devastating loss of life and injuries sustained, let us come together in prayer. May God bring comfort to the grieving families, healing to those injured and strength to the educators, students and first responders affected by this tragedy. Pray for peace and restoration in the face of such heartbreak.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

Faithful ‘Teary-Eyed’ Approaching Wooden Cross Surviving Raging Wildfire

After the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a case surrounding a public school district’s policy of concealing student gender transitions from parents, a veteran attorney who worked at the U.S. Department of Education is explaining the massive implications.

Earlier this week, the high court declined to hear *Parents Protecting Our Children, UA v. Eau Claire Area School District*, a case that would have put parental rights front and center.

Sarah Parshall Perry, a senior legal fellow in the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation and a former senior counsel at the U.S. Department of Education, said the battle centered on policies implemented at the Eau Claire Area School District in Wisconsin.

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“The Supreme Court decided that they were not going to take up what was a challenge to the constitutionality of a school policy keeping gender identity information of minor children ... confidential from their parents,” Perry said. “Now, this is a shocking policy, but it is one of about 1,200 policies across the country.”

In fact, the legal expert said there are around 12 million American kids in public schools across America who fall under such guidelines.

“If they identified as transgender or gender dysphoric, or ... using different names or pronouns, their parents could not find out that information on the child’s say-so,” Perry said. “All a child would have to do is say, ‘Keep that information confidential for my parents,’ and that’s exactly what would happen.”

Before the case reached the Supreme Court, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had said the parents in the case lacked standing, meaning they had not been harmed and, thus, couldn’t take action. Perry explained what this means in practice.

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“An interesting thing to note about this particular case coming out of Wisconsin is that the individual group of parents, a coalition of parents, did not have any children who identified as being transgender or with gender dysphoria,” she said. “It’s significant because the parents challenged the policy on a facial basis.”

This is a term that essentially means the parents believed the school district policy is unconstitutional in and of itself and must be struck down for the good of all. On the contrary, an as-applied constitutional challenge is one that sees a law or policy as unconstitutional in a specific context.

Perry said the facial argument, in her view, is appropriate for the parents’ case.

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Larry Tomczak’s Week in Review: Receive Your Healing

and Miracle at Year's End