

The Christmas Choir

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9

In Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:19 ESV

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18 ESV

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7 ESV

Peter's fiancé said she couldn't marry him; that they wanted different things. Peter said to Bob, the homeless piano player, "I thought I had everything figured out."

Have you ever felt like you had everything figured out and then it all changed? How do you react to change? God invites us to turn to Him and He will help us.

Sister Agatha asked Peter what he thought the purpose in life was? Peter asked, "to be happy"? Sister Agatha said it was to be useful. Later Peter said that he'd like to be more useful than just serving food and writing checks. Sister Agatha asked Peter, "What do you think Jesus was doing when He performed that miracle with the loaves of bread? Being of service to others is a wonderful thing."

What do you think is the purpose of your life? Why did God make you? How are you useful to others?

Peter told the men at the homeless shelter that the choir could help them raise some money for Christmas. When he said he had some rules Hector replied that they didn't like rules. Peter was angry when Hector broke the cardinal rule that they had to be sober for rehearsals and performances. Although Peter talked about giving people a second chance it was difficult for him to give Hector another chance.

Do you have someone in your life that's needs another chance? Has someone give you a second chance?

When Juan returned the scarf and pen he had stolen from Peter he didn't have to say a word. He and Peter both knew that Juan had changed. Later Juan confessed that when he was a child whenever he spoke he was beaten, so he quit talking. He said it was the music inside of his head that kept him sane. He thanked Peter for the healing gift of being able to sing his music out loud.

Do you have troubling memories from your childhood? Ask God to set you free from the pain of the past.

Peter's father was an alcoholic. Peter tried to re-establish a relationship with his dad, but it didn't work. He told Marilyn that he had been ashamed of his father all of his life. Marilyn told Peter that he had a lot of forgiving to do. Peter asked Marilyn whose side she was on. She replied, "I didn't think there were sides."

Is there someone who has hurt you in the past? Is there someone you need to forgive to have peace?

The message of this movie is reconciliation. God wants us to have peace with Him, with ourselves, and with others. God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to reconcile us to Himself. He freely offers us forgiveness when we ask Him. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says that God will not count our trespasses against us. That means that because Jesus paid the price for our sins we can have forgiveness and peace with God. Do you have peace with God, with yourself, and with others?

Dear Lord, we thank You for offering us peace through Jesus. Forgive our mistakes and wrongs of the past and fill us with Your peace. If we have been wronged in the past, release us from pain and bitterness. Forgive us the times we have hurt others. Show us how to make amends. Help us to peace-makers in Your name. Amen.