

Last Flight Out

Jesus told this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Luke 15:3-7 ESV

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 ESV

Ann's father contacted Dan to rescue his missionary daughter from a village that was over-run by drug lords in Colombia. "Just find her and bring her back and the plane is yours." Although her father wanted to rescue her, Ann wouldn't leave the village until she knew that her people were safe.

Is someone protecting you? Is someone worried about choices you make? Is there someone that you help protect? Are you worried about choices they make?

A song in the movie says "There's too much water and not enough bridge..." Sometimes we believe that our problems are too big and that things can't change.

When other people were fleeing for their lives, Ann believed that she could make a difference and she did.

How can you make a difference in someone else's life? How can you make a difference in your own life?

Instead of running away to protect himself, Mateo wanted to go into the dangerous area and bring medical supplies and gifts to those in need. When Dan questioned why Mateo stayed to help in such a dangerous place, Mateo said, "there is no better place to be than in the center of God's will."

What are some of the ways that you reach out to help others in need? Are you in the center of God's will? In what ways have you felt protected by God? Have you thanked Him?

Dan was willing to risk his life to rescue Ann. After Ann and the villagers were safe, Dan returned to the village to rescue Mateo. Dan was a hero, but he realized that even heroes need help. Luke 15 says, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who need no repentance." Repentance means that we quit going our own way, and instead ask God for direction and answers in life. When we trust in Him and read the Bible God will help us find the answers we seek.

Each year Samaritan's Purse distributes millions of Operation Christmas Child gift boxes all over the world. These boxes are flown to missions and villages and distributed to children just like Mateo did in the movie. For more information log on to www.samaritanspurse.org

Help make a difference in a child's life.

The drug lords wanted to force village people to serve them. Selfish people will hurt others to get what they want. God wants us to help each succeed, not use others so that we can win. Like the good shepherd Dan rescued the lost sheep, Mateo, who was left behind.

Do you know someone who is being mistreated or left behind in life? How can you make a difference?

Dear Lord we thank You for Your everlasting love and faithfulness. Take away our selfishness and fill us with love for You and compassion for those who need our help. Open our eyes to the needs around us and show us how we can make a difference in someone else's life. In Jesus name, Amen.