

My Thoughts For Sunday, February 23rd, 2014

"You Can't Do That!"

How I remember hearing that statement while growing up. I'm sure you have also been told that by various adults, peers and others.

- You can't climb that tree, it's too big,
- You can't ride that bike, you're too small,
- You can't go swimming, you don't know how,
- Etc, etc, etc.

I don't know how you accepted that negativity, but if you are anything like me it was not something you wanted to hear. If you were like me, anything was possible; there was nothing I couldn't do. When it came to school sports and other activities you may have been rejected for any number of reasons;

- You're not big enough,
- You can't run fast enough,
- Your fingers aren't coordinated enough to play that instrument, and on...And on... And on.

Now, as an adult I find that I probably could have done all those things, given the encouragement and proper direction instead of the constant ...you can't. Now as a Christian adult I hear people telling me that if I do enough good works and give enough money to an organization, then I can be sure of making my way into God's favor and eventually heaven. So many religious leaders seem to think that a person can buy his/her passport into Heaven.

This attitude bothers me much more than being told all those years...You can't. As a Christian who reads and listens to God's word, I know that these people are way off base with their promises. I know this is truly something that you and I and the rest of humanity really CAN'T do, no matter how hard we try or how much money we give. Jesus told us very plainly that *"I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me."*([John 14:6](#)) However, we don't need to worry about not being able to do this because it has already been done for us. We all remember that well known passage in John's Gospel, that *"God so loved the world that he gave His son...for us."*([John 3:16](#))

As we look forward to the Lenten season fast approaching we need to remember how we arrived in the dilemma a we are in and also, and especially, how we have been graciously and undeservedly been lifted out of this lost state. Read with me the report of how death came into this world--it wasn't meant to be this way, ([Romans 5:12](#)) and then how we were lifted out of this condition. ([Romans 5:17](#))

I urge you to read this entire portion of Romans chapter 5, verses 5 through 20. For that matter, it would be beneficial for all of us to read the entire Book of Romans from time to time to refresh our minds on the great things that our God has done for us. It is an awesome explanation of the great and wonderful way that we have been justified through Christ.

In conclusion, I wish to impress on you that the one important thing we can't do; we don't have to...Our Friend and Brother, Jesus has already done it for us.