

## **Esther and Emmett – August 30, 2020**

Emmett: Hey Esther, I have decided I am going to save shoelaces!

Esther: Really!! Why would you want to save shoelaces?

Emmett: I'm glad you asked. I am going to save them...so that I can lose them!

Esther: Why you would want to save them in order to then lose them...

Emmett: Because, then...I can find them!!

Esther: Let me see... you're going to save shoelaces, so that you can lose those shoelaces, so that you can find those shoelaces??

Emmett: That's right. Pretty neat, eh? It's kind of a lost and found game. Jesus talked about it.

Esther: (thoughtfully) Oh, you've been reading the Bible again!!!

Emmett: I sure have. Jesus told his disciples that if they wanted to save their life they would lose, but if they lost their life they would find it.

Esther: Ummmm...I'm not sure....

Emmett: Oh no! I know that look on your face! You're going to tell me that Jesus meant something else...I knew it!

Esther: I think Jesus was talking about how we live our lives.

Emmett: I think... that Jesus can be very difficult to figure out sometimes!

Esther: Yes, he can be. But maybe it will help if we talk about something other than a life or shoelaces.

Emmett: Like what?

Esther: Like a flower seed.

Emmett: Like a flower seed...I'm thinking of a flower seed...(makes a face of deep concentration). That doesn't help!

Esther: Okay... imagine that you have a flower seed.

Emmett: I've got a flower seed. I'm holding it right here in my fist. I've got it.

Esther: But let's say that you are walking in your backyard and drop the seed into some soil.

Emmett: I drop it...

Esther: So, you have lost the flower seed!

Emmett: Gosh, you're right. I've lost my flower seed.

Esther: Now suppose that winter comes, and snow covers the ground...

Emmett: Brrrrrr! Sure is cold out here!

Esther: Then spring comes, and sunshine and rain, and you go looking for your lost flower seed...

Emmett: But I'm not sure where I lost it...

Esther: Right, but when you go looking in the soil where you think you may have lost it, guess what you find?

Emmett: I'm going to guess I find something that's going to help me understand what Jesus said!!!

Esther: You find...a flower! A flower growing out of the soil exactly where you accidentally lost the flower seed.

Emmett: That flower seed I lost grew into a flower!!

Esther: And you found the flower!

Emmett: And I found the flower!

Esther: So, you lost something, and then you found what you lost, only now it was different than it was when you lost it. Now it is a flower, not just a flower seed!

Emmett: Just like Jesus said!

Esther: Just like Jesus said!

Emmett: ...I don't get it!

Esther: Well, Jesus says that everyone has a life. And some of us hold onto our life very tightly, like holding onto the flower seed in your fist. We just want to hold onto what belongs to us and we stop thinking about how we can share with other people, or help other people.

Emmett: When I was holding onto the flower seed so tightly, it couldn't become a flower.

Esther: Right. So what if God wants us to care about other people, and to love them, and to help them, and to make sure that everyone is treated with respect. What if so long as we hold on tight trying to keep what we have that we aren't able to love other people the way that God loves them.

Emmett: What if each of us is like a beautiful flower, able to bring some beauty into the world for others?

Esther: Soooo, maybe Jesus was saying that we have to lose one kind of life in order to find the life that makes life beautiful for everyone.

Emmett: Lose our life in order to find our life! Maybe Jesus knew what he was talking about after all.

Esther: Maybe Jesus knew what God was talking about - loving everyone.

Emmett: I'll say Amen to that.

Esther: And AMEN.