

Saturday - April 20

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5

Grace is red plaid. At least that's what I remember from when I was 10 years-old. We were at our favorite vacation place, Glen Lake. I believed I had learned all I needed to know about rowing the small boat. And my 8 year-old sister believed me. Bless her heart!

My dad asked me if I was sure that I felt comfortable rowing in the shallow end by myself, and I told him I was. So, Cindi and I climbed in and took off. It was awesome! I felt very grown up.

But then I realized that oars are very confusing when you try to turn around. I felt like we were still going out deeper and deeper and I couldn't figure out how to make the boat turn around. It seemed like the sunny day turned into a dark and cloudy scene. We were very scared. And the more I tried to make the boat do what I wanted it to do, the more tangled up I became in the oars.

We were crying in the boat. And pretty soon we were crying out to the shore for my dad. I can still see my dad jump up from his lawn chair next to my mom on the beach and start running toward the water in his red plaid trunks. He ran into the shallow waters then dove into the lake. He swam and swam until he reached us.

We were crying and very cold by the time he got to us. I don't remember how he climbed in or got us to the shore. But I remember being wrapped warmly in sun-drenched towels when we got to the sand. And we sat with parents' arms wrapped securely around us.

To this day, this experience is the epitome of grace. I created a mess out of my pride and over-confidence was redeemed by loving parents who didn't judge us, but comforted and loved us until we were ready to try to learn again.

Thanks be to God!

Kim

Prayer: God, help us remember that we can always reach out to you. And you will be there to receive and love us. Amen.