

## Weekly Prayer Guide – January 9, 2011

### **Jesus: Chosen One**

**Week 7 – January 9, 2011**

**Prayer Focus: Foster Care and Adopted Children**

*And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, “He saved others, let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.” Luke 23:35*

When Jesus was being crucified at Calvary, He appeared anything but chosen and special to onlookers. His appearance gave every reason to think he was powerless and common. He hung on the cross, beaten and bloodied in utter surrender to the murderers’ hands. From all accounts in the Bible, it was a scene of torment, violence, and devoid of majesty. In a word *hopeless*.

But visions to God are not equal to the appearances witnessed by man. Three days after Jesus’ crucifixion on Calvary, He rose from the dead. Death was powerless. Man lost. God won. Everything had changed. That is the way life is for anyone at any time touched by the mighty and unchanging hand of God through His Risen Son, Jesus Christ. Life changes. Hope is renewed. Faith is encouraged.

This week we lift before God’s throne of grace those children for whom life appears one way but God sees these children and their futures in another way. Conditions for some children who sit and wait in foster homes are conditions that vary. Our communities house children who are in need of being chosen. For reasons known and unknown, some children are unable to be cared for by biological parents and are forced into institutions that may or may not give to them the security and love that comes from being lovingly chosen. Pray for devoted families to care for and adopt these children in need of love, attention, guidance, and ministering angels. Ask the Lord for warm and wise people to parent and protect them from the evils in this world. Ask the Holy Spirit to touch these children with a knowing of the Gospel that they cleave to throughout all the days of their life. A knowing that grants them hope beyond appearances. A knowing that marks and keeps them secure, confident, and chosen ones in the power of The Chosen One.

*Lord Jesus, You know the circumstances of every child on earth. Some children are showered with love and they glow. Others are neglected and abused, lacking trust and living without hope. Jesus, we thank You for the loving adults who come along and bring children into their hearts and homes to provide a rich and meaningful life for them. Continue to bless these families. Jesus, we pray for those children who live in places with people who leave a child, a teenager, feeling hopeless and rejected. Send Your spirit of love to shield them. Guard them with Your light. We pray, Lord of Life, for Your hope to fill young people so they know that they are and shall forever be beloved and chosen by You. In Thee, Amen.*

**Weekly Faith Challenge** – Seek out ways to donate your time, talent or treasure in the interest of youth in need of encouragement. Help children or teenagers know that Jesus loves them. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you to opportunities for this kind of service. Eternity may come to reveal that your small known or anonymous act of self became a large act of faith in the life of a child or teen. Pray. Pray. Pray.

Chris Ann Waters

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Jersey Shore Will Graham Celebration – May 20-22, 2011, Ocean Grove, NJ