



What difference can one word make? One phrase? One sentence? Each one of us has it within our power to affect someone else's life forever, and to bring them just a little bit closer to the Kingdom of God. This story illustrates this truth.

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM (The Bible, Isaiah 11:6)

The surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. "Tomorrow morning," the surgeon began, "I'll open up your heart. ..."

"You'll find Jesus there," the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed. "I'll open up your heart as we begin the operation," he continued, "to see how much damage has been done..."

"But when you open up my heart, you'll find Jesus in there."

The surgeon looked to the boy's parents, who sat quietly. "When I see how much damage has been done, I'll close your heart and chest back up, and I'll plan what to do next."

"But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there. The hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart."

The surgeon had had enough. "I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well."

"You'll find Jesus there too. He lives there." The surgeon left.

After the surgery, the surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes. "Damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration.

"No hope for transplant. No hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis ..." Here he paused, "... death within one year."

He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said.

"Why?" he asked aloud. "Why, God, did You do this? You've put this boy here. You've put him in this pain, and You've cursed him to an early death. Why?"

The Lord answered and said, "The boy, My lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of My flock, and will forever be. Here, in My flock, he will feel no pain, and he will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and My flock will continue to grow."

The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. "You created that boy, and You created that heart. He'll be dead in months. Why?"

The Lord answered, "The boy, My lamb, shall return to My flock, for he has done his duty: I did not put My lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb."

The surgeon wept.

Later, the surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him.

The boy awoke and whispered, "Did you cut open my heart?"

"Yes," said the surgeon.

"What did you find?" asked the boy.

"I found Jesus there," said the surgeon.

From Jesus:

I will keep you forever.

I will always be there.

I will never fail in My promise to take care of you and be right there for you, always. For I love you, and I will never, ever leave you, My special child, whom I gave My own life for long ago.