



Life - the Beach, Jesus - the Lifesaver

by Elizabeth Koerner

The speckled cool, wet sand, the repeating, restful, rolling waves of the ocean, the curious, hungry, little brown birds with speckled throats, the warming sunshine and beautiful skies are the beach. The natural unkempt realities: wet hair, make-up-less faces, sandy hands and feet, bathing suits, are the beach. Salt water, reshaped corroded, shells polished by the surf, the sounds of laughing happy people are the beach.

The beach can be wonderful. Life can be wonderful.

Reality includes another side of the beach. The sand can be very hot. There can be biting bugs. There are big, harsh, tumbling, crashing, deafening waves. Unseen riptides carry their captives out to sea. The undertow with a locking grip pulls down and out the unsuspecting. There are hurricanes, tsunamis, dangerous marine life, rocks.

The beach can be harsh. Life can be harsh.

Sometimes mistakes are made at the beach. Our very best efforts to be careful sometimes aren't enough to avoid danger. Mistakes come with consequences. Choosing to go out too far or too deep is scary but one can be surprised or beat up by waves too close to the shallows too. Pain goes along with sunburn, wind-burn and stepping on sharp rocks. One may experience marine life's sting.

Lifeguarded beaches offer safety. Lifeguards are in an elevated position for greater visibility. They know the wave patterns of their beaches, the direction rip-tides carry off the weak or wounded, the impact of the undertow. They watch swimmers, surfers and those alone. Lifeguards shout out warnings and instructions and put colored flags on the beach to warn casual visitors. They are equipped

and trained to rescue with surfboards, bullhorns, watercraft, and lifesaver flotation. The lifeguard's purpose is to save, to rescue from danger or peril.

There are several things lifeguards won't do. They won't save the one who is still fighting to save themselves. And they won't save the one who refuses their gift of rescue.

Jesus is the Lifesaver. His plan: close watch care over us and an invitation for a personal relationship with us. Provision for our failures and mistakes and for relationship to be restored with God was made through Jesus dying on the cross paying the full penalty of your sins, mistakes, failures and mine. The Bible says: God loved every single one of us so much that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not die, but have everlasting life. The rescue offered is forgiveness. Offered as a free gift in exchange for living our lives on our own, fighting or working to save ourselves, the gift is available. Without Jesus we are in hazardous circumstances. Jesus also says: I came that you might have life - abundant life...life that is overflowing, more than enough, amazing. Jesus the Lifesaver never promised the perfect beach, but offers hope, peace, rest, relationship!

Life is the beach: Jesus is the Lifesaver.

Reflect and Respond

- 1) Think about the beautiful aspects of your beach. Give thanks.
- 2) Reflect on the rescue you have experienced and ask God to experience more amazing, overflowing, abundant life with Him.



Elizabeth Koerner loves the Lord and loves to help women grow in their relationship with Christ. Elizabeth leads the Shared Journeys ministry team discipling and mentoring women. She has grown significantly through her own mentoring relationships.

In her free time she has a habit of making her surroundings beautiful. She is an avid gardener, enjoys exercise and never wants to stop learning.

As a wife and mother of two teens she is a homework helper, counselor and friend. She loves to laugh. Her college writing professor recommended that she drop out and go home because she was such a bad writer. She is living proof that God uses available individuals.

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