The Last Page

Noah Wheaton [10/18/2025]

Yes, in this moment, we're still hurting (absolutely), and many are wondering … ***How in the world? Why in the world? What in the world?*** And as I've already confessed, there is so much I <u>do not know</u>, there's so much <u>we do not know</u>, so much <u>we may never know</u>. But please allow me to tell you a story that will point you to **what we <u>DO</u> know**. It's **Noah's** and my "**58**" <u>Story</u>.

Years ago when this church was much smaller, one of my jobs each Sunday before I left for lunch was to walk around and set all of the thermostats; in the winter I would run the heat down to **58** degrees. Well one Sunday **Noah** volunteered to help me. He asked me, *"Pastor Jody, what do I put it on?"* And I said "**58**." Little guy Noah said back to me, "***58!***" Each week, he'd be at the end of the hall and as he set it, he'd say, "***58!***" and I would reply, "***58!***"

Well, over time it actually became a part of our ***identity*** (he was "***Little 58***" and I was "***Mr 58***") and I loved it. And then ***<u>this</u>*** summer, **Noah** was here for worship one Sunday; after the service he hung around down front to speak to me, I got me a big 'ol bro hug, and then he showed me his left forearm …. <u>he had gotten a "**58**" tattoo</u>. "**58**" was engraved on his arm as a symbol of the ***relationship*** – that after all of these years – we still shared, in a very deep way. <u>And oh my goodness, seeing that "**58**" made me feel so special, so loved!</u> I was ***blown away!*** It was like, "***Are you kidding me, he got a tattoo … for me! But … I haven't always been there for him … I haven't always been everything I should've been for him … And he got a tattoo for me anyway?***"

<u>Please hear me</u>: There is **Someone** who got a tattoo ***for you too***. He actually got 4 of them ***for you*** (nails through both hands, a nail through his feet, and a spear through His side). He got His body ***engraved for you*** [Isaiah 49:16] ***because of His great love for you***. And His name? <u>His name is **Jesus**</u>.

Yes, there are some things <u>we just don't know</u> (*how* in the world, *why* in the world, *what* in the world); but here's what <u>we **do**</u> know (you ready?) … ***here's what <u>we know</u>***: For God **so loved** the world!!

It's the most popular verse in the Bible, and for good reason. <u>John</u> 3:16. "**For God so loved <u>the world</u> that He gave His one and only Son** [*gave Him to be nailed to a cross to pay the price for your sins … so that through **faith** in Him your sins can be forgiven and you can have peace <u>with</u> God and know the peace <u>of</u> God in your life …*], **that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life**."

<u>THAT'S it</u>! There's a lot we ***don't know***, some things we may never know, but **<u>THAT's</u>** what we ***<u>DO</u> know!*** <u>God loves you so much</u> that He sent Jesus into this world ***<u>to get tattooed for you!</u>*** He was ***fully aware*** that ***you would not always be what you needed to be***, but He ***willingly got tattooed for you anyway!*** And check this out: ***He got tattooed for you KNOWING His tattoos would result in His death***. God ***sent*** Him ***<u>anyway</u>*** and Jesus got ***tattooed <u>for you</u> anyway*** because it was the only way you could come to know how ***special*** you are; the only way you could come to know how ***loved*** you are.

Hey, I want everyone to know that … I got a tattoo too [***show my left forearm***]. Now, mine will wash off (I can ***wash it away*** with a little effort and a little soap and water).

But ***Jesus' tattoos*** that He got ***for you***, they're different; they're permanent. They will never go away, just like His love for you will never go away. This is so amazing: ***Jesus' blood*** that poured from His tattoos, ***it (and it alone) can wash off (wash away) all of your sins***. <u>And in having your sins washed away, you get to know the ***grace*** and the ***love*** of God in ways that you're ***blown away! Shame* GONE! *Regret* GONE! So much so you're like, "*Are you kidding me? Jesus got tattooed … for me?***" Yes, yes He did!

The blood from Jesus' tattoos washed away my sins. It washed away Noah's sins. I pray you will allow it to wash away your sins too.