

Surprise behind the Portrait

A wealthy man died, apparently without leaving a will. Consequently, according to law, the estate was to be divided among the several surviving cousins who were the next of kin.

Also as prescribed by law, the deceased's household goods and other items of personal property were to be converted into cash in a public auction. During the sale, the auctioneer held up a framed photograph, but no one bid on it, including the cousins.

Later, a woman approached the auctioneer and asked him if she might purchase the picture for a dollar, which was all she had. She said it was a photograph of the deceased man's only son.

She went on to relate that she had been a servant in the deceased man's household when the boy lost his life trying to rescue a drowning person, and that she had loved him very much.

The auctioneer accepted the dollar and the woman went home and placed the photograph on a table beside her bed. It was then she noticed a bulge in the back of the frame. She undid the backing and there, to her amazement, was the rich man's will.

The instructions in the will were simple: "I give and bequeath all my possessions to the person who cares enough for my son to cherish this photograph."

Do you see the analogy?

God gave His only begotten Son – the One who died saving not just one life but an act to offer salvation to all of mankind. His will is that all who will cherish and accept His Son can have all that heaven offers – and eternal life, too. Contrary to the analogy of the photograph, however, salvation doesn't cost anything. It is a free gift.



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter