

Daddy Has Big Shoulders

²⁸ *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹ *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*
³⁰ *For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV)*

The other day, my family and I went to see the movie “Courageous” at an area mall along with a group from our church. As I stood by the theatre box office greeting church members and taking in the sights and sounds around me, I noticed one little girl standing beside a woman crying almost uncontrollably.

She was obviously upset by something that had gone terribly wrong in her miniature world. As I watched the drama unfold, I quickly surmised that she was heart-broken because she had just missed boarding the little train that provides young passengers with a guided tour of that section of the mall. There seemed to be absolutely no appeasing her.

Just then, a tall figure entered the frame and stood beside, what now seemed apparent to be, a very frustrated mom and her distraught daughter. Trying to understand what I was seeing, I guessed that he was the little girl’s dad. My guess soon proved to be correct. Without as much as looking up to verify the man’s identity, the little girl inched toward him until she stood right beside one of his legs. Then as if on cue, she whimpered in a saddened voice, “Oh Daddy” and the man knew just what to do.

In one fell swoop, he reached down, scooped her into his arms and lofted her onto his shoulders. She whimpered a few more times and then amazingly went quiet. As her dad stood there cradling her in his arms and patting her softly on the back, I could barely make out that he was mouthing something like, “It’s alright, it’s alright”. To that little girl, there appeared to be no safer place than to be nestled upon her daddy’s shoulder. To her, it must have seemed as if his shoulder was as large and as comforting as a luxurious down pillow!

As I watched (and believe me when I say that I am NOT the sentimental type) I was absolutely overcome with joy and gratitude! Seeing this father lift his daughter high above the place of her disappointment instantly reminded me of the way our Father steps in just when we need Him most and how He raises us out of our fear, doubt and disbelief by comforting us with His divine presence.

A few minutes later, the train pulled back into its make-shift station and the little girl and her dad boarded one of the cars. To her, it seemed her miss opportunity was the end of the world, but in reality it was just a matter of waiting a few minutes for it to come back around.

Is there a situation in your life that feels like the end of the world? Is there a disappointment that beckons you to fall apart and cry beyond comforting? I encourage you to take a lesson from this little girl and run (don’t walk) into your Father’s arms. **Your Daddy also has big shoulders!**