



Faith Hope Love & Laughter

Christian Teaching and Entertainment

Laugh Learn and Grow with GOD

“TRUE VALUES”

Written by Joe Rieger

CAST

Father:

Rachel:

(his teenage daughter)

SETTING:

Outdoors: a special place on a man's property

(A man is seated at his special spot – Bible on his lap - reading John Eldredge’s “Wild at Heart.”)

FATHER:

(Reading to himself) Just as every little boy is asking one question, every little girl is, as well. But her question isn’t so much about her strength. No, the deep cry of a little girl’s heart is am I lovely? Every woman needs to know that she is exquisite and exotic and chosen. This is core to her identity, the way she bears the image of God. Will you pursue me? Do you delight in me? Will you fight for me?... A little girl looks to her father to know if she is lovely.

(Ponders all of this while his daughter quietly approaches)

DAUGHTER:

Hey dad.

FATHER:

Hi Rachel.

DAUGHTER:

Do you mind if I interrupt you for a minute?

FATHER:

Not at all. I enjoy – make that delight – in our little chats. Have a seat.

DAUGHTER:

I knew I’d find you here at this time of the day.

FATHER:

Am I that predictable?

DAUGHTER:

YEE-AH, but that’s okay. It’s actually kind of nice to know where you are.

FATHER:

Well, this has been my devotional spot since we moved here back in 1995. When it’s not raining that is.

DAUGHTER:

Or snowing.

FATHER:

Call me a wimp, but when the weather isn’t cooperating – which is most of the time in New England – I prefer a warmer and drier spot for my devotions.

DAUGHTER:

The recliner by the fire place.

FATHER:

You got it (pauses). Okay, you didn't come by to discuss my "devotional spots." What's on your mind?

DAUGHTER:

Okay. When mom and I were coming back from West Farms mall, we were listening to Christian radio and a pastor from Enfield was speaking.

FATHER:

Yeah, I heard part of that program. He was right on target about what's happening in our families these days.

DAUGHTER:

He said something that kind of confused me though.

FATHER:

Oh yeah, what was that?

DAUGHTER:

He said kids are growing up today without really knowing what their parents' values are. What exactly did he mean by that anyway?

FATHER:

Well from what I heard, he was saying that too many parents today aren't taking the time to teach their children about the things they stand for ... what they believe in. Worse than that, a lot of parents are relying on the public schools to teach their kids about values. That's pretty scary considering that the schools won't even mention anything about God – let alone what He values.

DAUGHTER:

Oh, no wonder that pastor was so upset. (Thinks for a moment) And you're right about not being allowed to talk about God in school. We can talk about the beliefs of anything and everything from the gods of the ancient Egyptians to the beliefs of Sponge Bob Square Pants but just try mentioning Jesus and "fughetaboutit". We can't even use the term BC anymore. We have to say "BCE" – "Before Current Era."

FATHER:

You're kidding me! *(Said in disbelief)*

DAUGHTER:

No dad, I'm serious. It's like they're trying to re-write history and pretend that Jesus never even existed *(gets saddened by this thought)*

(Her father puts his arm around her and hugs her)

FATHER:

Well honey, in a world filled with lies, we know the truth about that one ... don't we?

DAUGHTER:

Yeah dad, we do: John 3:16 ...

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

FATHER:

And no matter how hard they try, the schools and our culture can't change that wonderful truth! And you know what?

DAUGHTER:

No, what?

FATHER:

God doesn't want us to entrust the most important part of our children's education to people outside the family. That's why He commands parents to teach their children to love Him and obey His Word. Okay, so you're not going to hear about God in school ... that's all the more reason to make sure you learn about God at home!" That's your mom's and my job. Remember Deuteronomy 6:5-9?

DAUGHTER:

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

FATHER:

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children." (Emphasis on "Impress them on your children.").

DAUGHTER:

"Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, ..."

FATHER:

"... when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads."

DAUGHTER:

"Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

FATHER:

Hey, very good.

DAUGHTER:

See dad, you're not the only one around here who's been memorizing scripture. I listened to your advice about getting an index card booklet and writing down memory verses (shows him her little memory verse booklet). It's a good system.

FATHER:

Excellent sweetheart. I'm proud of you. Let me tell you, God WILL bless you for memorizing and obeying His Word. Psalm 119 tells us that it'll help keep you pure and Joshua 1:8 tells us it will make you prosperous and successful. Trust me on this.

DAUGHTER:

Let me tell YOU something dad. Other kids may not know what their dads believe in, but I know what your values are. Hey, we just quoted them together. You really do love God with all your heart and His Word really is an important part of your life.

FATHER:

Oh, so you noticed that did you?

DAUGHTER:

Yeah dad, I mean HEL-LO, every single day of my life I can remember seeing you in this spot or in that recliner by the fireplace. Your actions speak louder than words.

FATHER:

Well, I'm trying to set an example for you – but more importantly, I love my quiet time with the Lord. Without our quiet time together, I couldn't have a close and meaningful relationship with Him. It's during these times that I get to know God more ... and love Him more.

DAUGHTER:

And now you want to teach me to do the same.

FATHER:

Exactly.

DAUGHTER:

Well let me let you in on a little secret. I already have an indoor spot where I meet with God and now I'm looking for a special outdoor spot.

FATHER:

(Her father is deeply moved and smiles at her) Cool (Picks up "Wild at Heart," holds it against his chest and nervously speaks). Hey "Rache"?

DAUGHTER:

Yeah dad?

FATHER:

I am so proud to have you as my daughter. This may sound a bit off the wall, but you are lovely and worth fighting for.

DAUGHTER:

(Surprised and touched by her father's affirmation) Wow dad where did that come from?

FATHER:

From here (*taps the book*) and from here (places his hand over his heart). It's something you need to know.

DAUGHTER:

Wow, you really think I'm lovely and worth fighting for?

FATHER:

Yes honey, I do. And my prayer is that God will one day bless you with a husband who feels the same way.

DAUGHTER:

Oh daddy, that's the sweetest thing anyone's ever said to me (*they embrace and she kisses his cheek*).

FATHER:

(*Collects himself and changes the subject*) Oh, and one more thing concerning your quiet time...

DAUGHTER:

Yeah dad?

FATHER:

I suggest you look for a spot on the west side of our property ... as far away as possible from Mr. Nicholson and his 200 horsepower weed whacker.

DAUGHTER:

(*Laughs*) You got that right. Talk about your mountaintop mood wrecker. Where's Greenpeace when you need them?
(*Father chuckles*)

DAUGHTER:

I love you dad.

FATHER:

I love you too Rachel.

DAUGHTER:

(She leans over, kisses him and stands up) Okay, now which way is west?
(Father points his finger west)

DAUGHTER :

See ya.

FATHER :

See ya.
(Rachel heads west while her father looks up to God and quietly prays)

FATHER:

Thank You Lord for our Rachel. May Your values become her values. And may You one day bring the right man into her life to delight in her and fight for her. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

THE END