

Christian Book Reports

Jim Hoffman



He Still Moves Stones

Max Lucado



Romans 1:4 And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God^b by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.



Justified

“And then listen. Listen carefully. He's speaking. "I don't judge you guilty." And watch. Watch carefully. He's writing. He's leaving a message. Not in the sand, but on a cross. Not with his hand, but with his blood. His message has two words: not guilty.” Max Lucado

It is actually better than ‘not guilty’ when God justifies us – he not only declares us not guilty, but righteous.





When your family doesn't follow.

“When Jesus' brothers didn't share his convictions, he didn't try to force them. He recognized that his spiritual family could provide what his physical family didn't. If Jesus himself couldn't force his family to share his convictions, what makes you think you can force yours?” Max Lucado

It is a tough deal to try understand why those with your same history and same experience don't embrace the same things you do.






Fathers Provide and Protect

“To recognize God as Lord is to acknowledge that he is sovereign and supreme in the universe. To accept him as Savior is to accept his gift of salvation offered on the cross. To regard him as Father is to go a step further.” Max Lucado

God wants us to look to him for our protection and provision – he wants us to trust him to help us with every facet of life.






Step out in faith.

“Risky decision. To touch him, she will have to touch the people. If one of them recognizes her ... hello rebuke, good-bye cure. But what choice does she have? She has no money, no clout, no friends, no solutions. All she has is a crazy hunch that Jesus can help and a high hope that he will.” Max Lucado

The woman with the issue of blood was down to her last chance – no money and no hope. It seems like that is often just where God wants us.





The kingdom is a different place.

“God's economy is upside down (or rightside up and ours is upside down!). God says that the more hopeless your circumstance, the more likely your salvation. The greater your cares, the more genuine your prayers. The darker the room, the greater the need for light.” Max Lucado

I suspect the day will come when we will look at our lives today and ask, “how did I miss what was so obvious?”





Take Risks

“God honors radical, risk-taking faith. When arks are built, lives are saved. When soldiers march, Jerichos tumble. When staffs are raised, seas still open. When a lunch is shared, thousands are fed. And when a garment is touched-whether by the hand of an anemic woman in Galilee or by the prayers of a beggar in Bangladesh-Jesus stops. He stops and responds.” Max Lucado

Our tolerance for risk ascends as our circumstances and options descend.





Older or Better?

An open-ended question – when you think of ‘grand exit’ what thoughts come to mind?

We should be as concerned about finishing strong as a believer, as we are about our health and wealth.





The Big Picture

“People wanted him to redeem Israel, but he knew better. He would rather his people be temporarily oppressed than eternally lost. When forced to choose between battling Pilate and battling Satan, he chose the battle we couldn't win. He said no to what they wanted and yes to what they needed. He said no to a liberated Israel and yes to a liberated humanity.” Max Lucado

We are such creatures of time – we want pain relief when God has a cure (redemption) in mind.





Do our words even matter?

“He prayed out of desperation. His son, his only son, was demon-possessed. Not only was he a deaf mute and an epileptic, he was also possessed by an evil spirit. Ever since the boy was young, the demon had thrown him into fires and water. A parent with a sick son in need of a miracle. The father's prayer isn't much, but the answer is and the result reminds us: the power is not in the prayer; it's in the one who hears it.” Max Lucado

While we get hung up on verbiage, God is looking past our lips to our hearts.



When Life is Hard

“What a challenge! He couldn't leave his son alone for a minute. Who knew when the next attack would come? The father had to remain on call, on alert twenty-four hours a day. He was desperate and tired, and his prayer reflects both. If you can do anything for him, please have pity on us and help us.” Listen to that prayer. Does it sound courageous? Confident? Strong? Hardly.” Max Lucado

I wonder if it is as true as it appears – that God delights in being our hope, even when we see him as our last hope?



Where Prayer Starts

“If his prayer sounds like yours, then don't be discouraged, for that's where prayer begins. It begins as a yearning. An honest appeal. Ordinary people staring at Mount Everest. No pretense. No boasting. No posturing. Just prayer. Feeble prayer, but prayer nonetheless.”

Max Lucado

All we need do is consider the words of our children to us when they hurt – do we insist on complete sentences, flowing rhetoric, and excellent diction?



Child-like Faith

“God, it's Emily. How are you? I'm fine, thank you. Mom and Dad are mad. I don't know why. We've got birds and toys and mash potatoes and each other. Maybe you can get them to stop being mad? Please do, or it's just gonna be you and me having fun tonight. The prayer is answered before it's finished; you both look up in the middle and laugh at the end and shake your heads and say you're sorry. And you both thank God for the little voice who reminded you about what matters.” Max Lucado

Perspective on life is crucial – how much do we appreciate mashed potatoes and each other?



Whose Rules?

“Legalism doesn't need God. Legalism is the search for innocence-not forgiveness. It's a systematic process of defending self, explaining self, exalting self, and justifying self. Legalists are obsessed with self-not God. Legalism turns my opinion into your boundary and your burden”

Max Lucado

Man has long-standing problem of wanting to be comparatively better than his neighbor and it often leads more away from Christ than it leads toward him.



Stand Still

“It's just you and God. You and God both know what you did. And neither one of you is proud of it. What do you do? You might consider doing what Peter did. Stand in God's presence. Stand in his sight. Stand still and wait. Sometimes that's all a soul can do. Too repentant to speak, but too hopeful to leave—we just stand.” Max Lucado

I still stand amazed at the grace of God to forgive me when I've failed (AGAIN).



My Father and I in a Storm.

“Everything I see frightens me. There is only one reassuring sight, the face of my father. Rain-splattered and grimacing, he peers into the storm. Water drips off the bill of his baseball cap, and his shirt is stuck to his skin. Right then I made a decision. I quit looking at the storm and watched only my father. It just made sense. Watching the waves brought fear; watching my father brought calm. So I focused on Dad. So intent was my gaze that three decades later I can still see him guiding us out of the billows.” Max Lucado

There will be many storms and troubles in a world marred by sin and ruled by the enemy, but we can rest in the truth that we are not alone.



Dealing with Bitterness

“How does God deal with your bitter heart? He reminds you that what you have is more important than what you don't have. You still have your relationship with God. No one can take that. No one can touch it. Your health can be taken and your money stolen-but your place at God's table is permanent.” Max Lucado

The prodigal son's brother was a bitter man- so tired of being right that he was incapable of being righteous.





Questions / Comments

