

John's notes on

Seeing God in a Children's Hospital

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[PRE-SERVICE CLIP #1 – Dsk 1, Epsd 2 - 0:00 – 1:11]

[PRE Message House CLIP – 33:04 -36:03 freeze/fade]

I remember **the 'awe'** I felt when I first saw that scene from HOUSE... **"Holy!"**... we're capable of doing this!

We have the **technology see into brains**, remove/ re-inject blood, etc... (think of the engineering, science, the investment, creativity, brilliance that allows this to happen... **PAUSE**... that's developed over millennia!)

Then consider the **technicians**; neurologists, cardiologists, immunologists, anesthesiologists, etc... >> each of these people> products of a huge health care system > all designed to take care of the sick... **PAUSE**... **take care of a sick little girl!!**

Then> think of the HEART that inspires a scene like this... doing whatever it takes to save her... all of us coming together, coordinating our efforts, to do this greater thing... **PAUSE**... this most critical thing!...

(1)It's what **we're** doing this week! **PAUSE**... Together we have spent \$300 million to build a new children's hospital here in Calgary... (a place of light, hope, colour > for those facing a dark time)... A place with the best technology, best design, best people we can offer...

This week Wed we'll open the doors to the **'weakest of the weak'** and give them **'strongest of the strong'**... & we'll close a major roadway to get them there/

CLEAR THE WAY (Crowchild)... and none of us will complain about the traffic that day!... **PAUSE**...

In doing this> demonstrate best> what it means to be a human being... bringing together all of our energies & brilliance to help save a child (save someone so **small**, and **innocent**, and **helpless**)... **LONG PAUSE**

(2)This new hospital is a picture of the heart of God Couple of weeks back I googled two words... "Hospital and St." and got 87,000,000 hits... **PAUSE** Evidence enough of who's heart has inspired all of this...

A God who throughout the bible was a **health care provider**... providing healthy dietary laws (Leviticus)... manna to a desert dry people... through prophets and priests bringing miraculous healing... through ultimate prophet/priest Jesus> touching the **blind, deaf, bleeding, paralyzed, epileptic, depressed, lepers**, and>> healing little children (raising them to life)...

READ> **(3)MK 5:35-43 MSG** Can you imagine being that parent... beside that sick bed?... **PAUSE**... I can still remember **feeling Cardiologist** > "He's fine... the operation was a success"... [DO YOU REMEMBER? **PAUSE**... when God first said, "You're OK... better!"]...

What O wouldn't want to do that for us?... **PAUSE**... I can still see the **mothers' eyes** asked about their Children's Hosp experiences... **fierce, protective, "do anything for their child"** love... **(4)IS 42:15ff reading**

(5) "Can a mother forget the infant at her breast, walk away from the baby she bore? But even if mothers forget, I'd never forget you—never. Look, I've written your names on the backs of my hands." Isaiah 49:15-16

There is something about **our love for our children** > that's a **powerful pointer** to the nature of God's love.

PAUSE... 'something about' what drives us to build a children's hospital > is **very indicative** of who God is!...

When he works in us this way [**IMAGE... led by his Spirit... getting his will done on earth as in heaven**]
As God does all this > showing us something!... saying, **"My heart>on fire for the weak/ small... helpless..."**
Evidence of his 'weakly emphasis' all over bible... God >always there **for 'alien at gate'... 'minority/ outsider 'disabled'... 'poorest/ostracized'... "for the least of these"** >> For **'children'** (it was different then! explain)

(6) People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Luke 18:15-17

In the building of this hospital in our city... in its grand opening this week, Jesus is saying, **(7) "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. LONG PAUSE...** "I love them, and I will do whatever it takes to touch them... to bless them... **PAUSE...** and whether they live, or whether they die... they'll still belong to me!"

[CLIP #2 – 36:03 – 37:48(52) FREEZE/FADE!!!!!!]

LONG PAUSE... Throughout the past two millennia, **followers of Christ, people made in his image...** have continued to let the love of God for the weak to be shown through hospitals... **(8)** "In the **second century** when plague hit the City of Carthage, pagan households threw sufferers onto the streets. The entire Christian community, personally led by their bishop, responded. They were seen on

the streets, offering comfort and taking them into their own homes to be cared for.... **PAUSE...**

(9) A few decades after Constantine, Julian, who came to power in **AD 355**, was the last Roman Emperor to try to re-institute paganism. In his Apology, Julian said that if the old religion wanted to succeed, it would need to care for people even better than the way Christians cared. **LONG PAUSE..**

(10)In **AD 369**, St Basil of Caesarea founded a 300 bed hospital. >>This was the first large-scale hospital for the seriously ill and disabled.... **PAUSE...**

(11) In the so-called Dark Ages (476-1000) rulers influenced by Christian principles encouraged building of hospitals. Charlemagne decreed that every cathedral should have a school, monastery and hospital attached."... **ETC... etc...**

Century after century after century... human heart after human heart... God's love mysteriously moving through his creation... his hand reaching/ touching us!... through >> Hospices... Orphanages Med Schools... Biology departments... hospitals... (12) and now, this week AD 2006, the ACH!

Praise God from whom all blessing flow!... PAUSE!

[In that episode of HOUSE]... **all that they did** >they did for a girl that would, within 12 months die of cancer... **(Grace was that ridiculous!!) PAUSE...** in a sense God does that in all of us... in all of our physical healings... just temporary in a sense... **and in another sense they're not...** <<b/c via the healing an even greater thing happens... greater than **regained sight...** health... life > **WE SEE GOD!...** feel his touch... hear his voice!... << **PAUSE... If we have eyes to see!! faith of a child... hearts that believe!**

Can we get past our cynicism in order to believe? Can we let go in order to trust? **PAUSE... (13)** We do it with our Doctors...**[STORY]** trust them with our lives...

in a way they're a bit like God... **PAUSE...** But will we do it with Him... **LONG PAUSE...** Can we get past our cynicism... fears... desire to control all of life... to be god ourselves > **PAUSE...** Will we let the God of healthcare, hospitals and care giving saints embrace us?

[CLIP #3 – 37:52 – 41:01] **Prayer...**

"I've been quiet long enough.
I've held back, biting my tongue.
But now I'm letting loose, letting go,
like a woman who's having a baby—
Stripping the hills bare,
withering the wildflowers,
Drying up the rivers,
turning lakes into mudflats.
But I'll take the hand of those who don't know the way,
who can't see where they're going.
I'll be a personal guide to them,
directing them through unknown country.
I'll be right there to show them what roads to take,
make sure they don't fall into the ditch.
These are the things I'll be doing for them—
sticking with them, not leaving them for a minute."
(and you think clearing Crowchild big thing!)

IS 42:14-16
