

## **Little Tree's Prayer – Christmas 1, 2006**

### **Introduction**

Today's sermon is about a little Christmas tree. After all the excitement of getting ready for Christmas and the fun of Christmas morning...the little Christmas tree is starting to feel a little down and so the little Christmas tree prays to God to tell him how he is feeling.

### **Tree**

Hello, God...can you hear me?...are you listening to prayers today...I mean you have had a lot of extra prayers to listen to this last while...I heard there were lots of people in the churches praying over Christmas...do you have some time to hear my prayer?

### **God**

Of course I have time for you little tree...I am always glad to hear from all my children...at any time you can talk to me. I want to know how you are feeling. I like to know when you are feeling happy or sad...upset or joyful. So go ahead little tree and talk to me.

### **Tree**

Well, I know I should be feeling very happy because of all the excitement of Christmas...and I did have lots of fun, I really did. But now that Christmas is over, I am feeling sad.

### **God**

Tell me more my little tree.

### **Tree**

It's like this. I got to spend Christmas with a very lovely family. They came to the tree lot and they picked me out from all the other trees. I felt very special to be chosen. They took me to their home and they had so much fun dressing me up – they put lights all over me and shiny ornaments and on the top of me, they placed a beautiful angel. I have to tell you God...I looked terrific! I mean, I was really dazzling!

### **God**

I am glad you had such a great time!

### **Tree**

That's not all God. After a couple of days they started to put presents around me. They were wrapped so carefully with bright ribbons and bows and the kids would pick them up and try to guess what was inside. Then came one of the very best parts...on Christmas Eve after everyone went to sleep, they left my lights on. It was the only night they did that. In the middle of the night...I got to see Santa Claus. I had heard so much about Santa, but I had never seen him myself. He came very quickly and filled the stocking and placed the gifts around the tree and then he stood back for just a moment...he smiled and said to me, "What a pretty little Christmas tree this is." I felt so important.

### **God**

Wow, that was quite something, to see Santa!

**Tree**

There is more...the next morning everyone was running in to see me and they laughed and were so excited...and all through the day they were around me, having the greatest time and I was right in the middle of all the fun. It was wonderful.

**God**

Now little tree, you said that now you are feeling sad, tell me about that.

**Tree**

I had a great Christmas...and I am very grateful for it...very grateful to the family that picked me...but God, now comes the hard part.

Christmas is coming to an end. You see, they cut me off from my roots. They can't put me back in the forest. My needles are already starting to fall. Soon they will be taking the ornaments and lights off of me. I even heard the father say, "those blasted needles are getting all through the house". They will soon throw me out the door...leave me in a snow bank...a garbage truck will take me away and they will grind me all up and send me to the zoo for animals to sleep on. My life is over. What good have I done? Do you understand my problem?

**God**

Little tree...I am so glad you told me all of that. I do understand...I understand very much. I think you have done a great thing with your life.

Little tree...you have brightened the world. People have gathered around you and shared presents and laughed and held parties. You have made a family very happy. Those children will have memories they will cherish forever. They will never be able to think of Christmas without thinking about you, their beautiful little Christmas tree. You were right in the center of all their activities and all of their joy.

**Tree**

I know they were happy and I was happy too, I really was...it's just that it is over now...and my needles are drying up and falling off.

**God**

Little tree...I must tell you something very important. Little tree you did something very important going to that home, maybe something more important than you realized...you have been my messenger to that home.

**Tree**

What do you mean?

**God**

Little tree, your life is the same as the life of my Son Jesus.

**Tree**

You will have to explain that to me God.

**God**

Little tree you know the story of Christmas. You know how I sent my Son Jesus into the world. He was born in a manger and shepherds came to worship him.

**Tree**

Oh I know the story, but what has that got to do with me and my falling needles?

**God**

You are following the example of my Son Jesus. Jesus entered the world and people were excited. Just like they were excited about you entering their home. They were excited about the baby in the manger...they were excited about Jesus healing people and feeding people and forgiving people.

In order for Jesus to be with them...in order for Jesus to be a human...he had to die. There was no other way.

Just like the family that picked you out. They wanted their home to be bright and happy with a tree...but for that to happen, you had to give your life.

Believe me little tree...I know what you are going through. I know what it is like to give your life to someone else. That is what my Son Jesus did...and little tree, that is what you have done.

So many people just live for themselves little tree. They do not think of other people. They do not do things for other people. It breaks my heart. I want people to realize the greatness and the joy...of giving...of making a difference to other people. I want people to think not just about themselves, but about those around them.

You have done that little tree. You have paid a big price...you have given your life...just life Jesus gave his life for the world.

You have done a great thing little tree...you have been my messenger to that home.

**Tree**

Thank you God for listening to me. Thank you for understanding how I feel. I feel bigger thinking that what I have done, is like what Jesus has done. I am glad to know that my life might make a difference – that people will truly care more about other people.

**God**

Little tree, I am very proud of you. You have done what you were meant to do. Think about these words of Jesus:

*"Greater love has no one than this, that you lay down your life for your friends".*

I bless you little tree. May there always be many trees that follow your example.

May those who bring these trees into their homes and lives – may they too follow the example of your life.