

God, Reconciliation and How to Train Your Dragon
January 16, 2011
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CLIP #1 - 00:34 – 3:18 (freeze after Astrid scene, “Oh their job is so much cooler!”)...

() And that’s how HHTYD begins... it’s a story about a Viking boy – **HICCUP** – who’s trying to find his way...

Only he’s not like all the others in his tribe – he’s small, weak, thoughtful & creative... **very un-Viking-like!**... And he struggles to find his place... **PAUSE... He’s an outsider... LONG PAUSE... “In a world where all that you were was defined by your ability to fight the enemy – dragons – he was a nobody!”**

Often he’s **tried to compensate for his differences** by using his creative gift of **developing technology**... But most of the time > **he fails** and causes more trouble than good... **PAUSE... (SLOW)** Hiccup is a **huge disappointment** to the village leader – **his dad**.

() **But then one day he finds success...** In the middle of a dragon attack, he uses one of his contraptions to actually **shoot down** a dragon called a **Night Fury** (most elusive and destructive dragon alive)...

But no one believes him... (how could anything good come out of Hiccup?)... **PAUSE...** But Hiccup is determined to find the **dragon he downed**... So, while all the other Vikings are **preparing for war** - a voyage to destroy their **fierce dragon enemies** once & for all – Hiccup **heads out on a journey of his own** > to find that dragon!... **PAUSE...** And he **DOES!**...

CLIP #2 – 12:11 – 15:11 - Freeze after he faints

() That was his **mortal enemy** he was facing! (eye)... “**Them**”... evil, destructive, other, “them”...

In that very moment, a **whole new way** of dealing with **Dragon/Viking enmity** began... **PAUSE...**

In that moment the **dividing wall of hostility** began to come down...**PAUSE... eye contact led to empathy...** & a “new way” was born... a whole new relational realm

Which is what our faith & life story is all about right...

() **READ Ephesians 2:14-22**

Which is sort of what Hiccup did in this story... through **his willingness to bridge the hostilities** he was able to lead others to do the same... although it took **some time & hard work** for everyone to get there... **PAUSE**

Stereotypes can build pretty big walls of hostility –

() “A dragon will always go for the kill!” (dragon trainer) **PAUSE...** “We Jews are the people of God... all foreigners are not!” **[Explain hostility Paul address]** **PAUSE...** “People of other faiths have no idea who God really is their faith is of the devil...”

PAUSE... “That person at work is nothing but trouble, they should be avoided at all costs...”

PAUSE... “Isn’t he gay... how could he possibly know anything about God’s truth?”

PAUSE... “All democrats are spineless socialist fools... & all Republicans, gun toting fundamentalists”

() **Yet that Night Fury DIDN’T kill Hiccup!** **PAUSE...**

(SLOW) “There’s something about being the recipient of Grace that then allows grace to grow in you...” **For**

God does not show favoritism. Romans 2:11

He didn't hold your **'enemy status'** against you... when you had your back turned on him... ignored him... lived as though he wasn't there (wasn't God)...

He didn't allow a **'camp mentality'** to dictate his actions... no, while you were still sinning & an enemy he came to you... and **cut your ropes**...

Even as Hiccup intended to harm that dragon (with his technology) some mysterious force worked his bad motives for good... () You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives Genesis 50:20

Viking and Dragon lives... **LONG PAUSE**...

This is how we are called to engage and love our enemies... () love them as we love ourselves"...

() Do unto others..." (SLOWLY) Take the **terrifying risk of being a reconciler... a redeemer**...

CLIP #3 – 30:42 - 33:11 - Freeze on Hiccup's face

() His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two..." **LONG PAUSE**...

And for **our part**... it's incredibly tough... [BOEHNER] For you it will be tough... "I can't make up with my enemy!..." "I won't do it..." "They'll bite back as soon as I extend my hand..." "It's just too risky!..."

PAUSE... and it is!... just look at what Jesus suffered to bring in his **new way**... a **new realm**... **PAUSE**... We're called to **no less**... we're called to () take up **our cross and follow him**..." to pay whatever the cost!

Which is the road less travelled, the route Jesus took... **huge risk & sacrifice, for a huge return**... **PAUSE**...

So Hiccup took risks... and we soon discover **he had everything he needed** to get the reconciling work done... **PAUSE**... we all do!... Hiccup's metal working skills, design skills, creative tech skills> to make a new **rear rudder fin** for the dragon (who'd lost his...) and they're **ABLE TO FLY TOGETHER!**...

CLIP #4 – 43:28 – 45:52 - Freeze on Hiccup's cheer

I love how they both need each other to fly... [Explain] They **do more together** than either of them ever could alone!... "Which is God's plan for all of us... ALL of us" () Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" Eph 3:20

It's this powerful vision of unity, peace, shalom that God has planned for us all in Christ... not just the **absence** of hostility... but the **presence** of **security, rest and overwhelming joy!** (it'll feel like you're flying!) **PAUSE**

"Only we're not there yet..." **LONG PAUSE**... And neither was Hiccup... he had a **few more challenges to face** before he entered the promised land...

() A lot of **raised eyebrows & "are you crazy?"** looks A few **epic, action battles**... () He risked the loss of **his family, tribe and friends**... [PAUSE to RD MK]... and endured a few **significant setbacks**

Like his dad saying "**You're not my son**" ... and then the near death experience of fighting a **Viking-eating beast called Maximus**... **PAUSE**...

But in the end all the risks were worth it... and there was peace... shalom... heaven on earth... **CLIP #5 – 83:58 – 87:55 quick freeze after "welcome home"**

This is what we're called to..."() For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

And... "() God [has] raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" Eph 2:6

() READ Galatians 3:26-28 (modified slightly)

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." Ephesians 2:14-22

"() Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life." Mark 10:28-30

CONCLUSION READING

"() So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, (Dragon nor Viking, black or white or in between, gay or straight, insider or outsider, rich or poor, Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative) for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26-28