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TO CHANGE THE WORLD

"This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

-1 John 4:10

"I love you like I love strawberry milkshakes...I love you like pigs love pies."

A quote out of a children's book can take very deep root in a 6-year-old's heart as it did in mine. The concept of loving someone as much as a milkshake? Wow!

"Is that possible? What does that even mean? What kind of love could this be?" I wondered.

Every night after my favorite book, *I Love You, Good Night*, had been read, my dad would kiss my head, turn out the lights, and I would lie awake mulling over those powerful words until I had exhausted every option of what that kind of love truly meant.

"And what about pigs?" I wondered. "Do pigs eat pies? Do they really like them? Do they love them? If pigs love pies and my dad says he loves me more, that's a lot, right?"

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SUPERHERO..

It's funny what our human brains can or can't comprehend no matter how simple the statement. And still to this day I sometimes struggle with the complete realization of love! What it is. *Who* it is.

First John 4:10 says, "This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

To this day I often still feel like a 6-year-old girl, lying in bed daydreaming of my Father's love for me. *He loved me first? Before I ever loved him?* Still a childlike wonder mystifies me as I experience revelation after revelation of my Heavenly Daddy's love. It's so simple, and yet I so frequently complicate the simple! He loves me! That's it.

I so often feel the urge to share the love of Christ that I have experienced with others around me. But I find myself, instead, discounting opportunities to speak a word of encouragement to someone. There are times when I shy away from mentioning how the Lord has touched me, not because I am ashamed, but rather because I feel I may not have a significant or elaborate enough way of expressing my true experience of him!

It's silly how the Lord often speaks to us in pictures and parables as if speaking to a small child, and yet we take what he says and complicate it! If only we could

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TO CHANGE THE WORLD

always take him at his word...He loves us! More than strawberry milkshakes, more than pigs love pies, Jesus Christ loves us!

Rachel Morgan

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord Jesus, thank you that before time began you dreamt of me. You loved me before I ever loved you. Help me take you at your word like a child. I pray for more revelation of your love for me. Help me to receive it so that I may be able to share it with others. Thank you that it's simple. Thank you for loving me. Amen.

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