



# Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

## “Cast aside”

Thursday September 14, 2017

**Verse for the week: Isaiah 40:29 (NLT) He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.**

We live in a society that casts aside anything that we don't feel is acceptable. In America, we throw away approximately 165 billion dollars' worth of food, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council. Food is one thing, but people feel as though they are cast aside as well.

- Truck drivers alone on the road can feel cast aside.
- Shut-in's, and the elderly can feel cast aside.
- Individuals with disabilities can feel cast aside.
- Incarcerated people feel cast aside.
- Children can feel cast aside. (Ever heard the comment “Children are to be seen and not heard?”)
- Homeless people can feel cast aside.

The list goes on and the sad stark reality is that it's true. We can be in a crowd of people and still feel that way, but just because you may feel cast aside doesn't mean you are. Each of us is important to God. Why? Because He made us, (Psalms 139) and He gave His own Son to take the punishment for us, for all the things that we have done wrong (John 3:16). Maybe you are reading this and your past haunts you and you feel as though you have been cast aside, or the voices of insecurity are screaming out at you? If so, you may think to yourself, “There is no way that God can use me. I'm a loser. I'm unqualified.” If that is you, don't underestimate what God can do!

Recently I heard about three individuals who easily could have been cast aside: A senior adult dealing with a stroke, a five year old with a plastic push mower, and a man diagnosed with terminal cancer. The senior adult had always been meticulous with his yard and wouldn't even allow his kids to play on it. While he was recuperating from his stroke, he couldn't mow his yard, and one day there was a knock on his door and it was the five year old neighbor boy. The little boy said he saw his yard hadn't been mowed so he helped him and mowed the front yard with his mower, but would have to come back the next day to finish. The senior adult ended up inviting the little boy to church and a few years later he asked God to forgive him of the things he had done wrong. The little boy wanted to be baptized and invited his grandfather to the service. The grandfather came and it resulted in him asking God to forgive him. Shortly thereafter, the grandfather was diagnosed with terminal cancer and God has used him to share with others how much God loves them.. The three of them could have been individuals “cast aside”, but God chose to use each of them. As a result, there have been hundreds of people impacted by their story, and many who have asked God to forgive them too. Don't underestimate what God can do through you!

**Question to ask yourself:** Look around, is there someone that feels cast aside that you can reach out to?

PS. The senior adult now allows kids to play on his yard. ☺



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