

Save the Starfish

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

This verse brings to my mind a favorite story called "The Star Thrower," written by Loren Eiseley.

There was once a little boy who was walking along the beach and all of a sudden he came upon thousands of starfish that had washed up on the shore. The tide was going out, and for some strange reason, the starfish ended up stuck on the beach. They were all doomed because they couldn't survive being out of the water in the hot sun until the next high tide. The little boy realized this and frantically started picking up starfish and throwing them, one at a time, back into the water.

A man who was walking along the beach saw the boy doing this and called to him saying, "*Son, what in the world are you doing? Don't you know that there are thousands of starfish on this beach? And don't you know this beach goes on for miles and miles? There is no way in the world you can save all those starfish!*"

The little boy thought about that for a moment, then turned to the man, picked up a starfish and said, "***Yes sir, I know. But I can save this one.***" And he heaved it as far as he could into the ocean.

I'm not a starfish, but like that starfish I am glad someone saw enough value in me to attempt to make a difference in my life by sharing the gospel with me. Perhaps the best way to say thanks is to simply share the gospel with others. While the prospect of reaching everyone by myself would seem to be a daunting task, I'm quite certain that I can start with one.

—Mark Ray
Jackson, MS