THE TRUE STORY OF
THE RESCUED RAT

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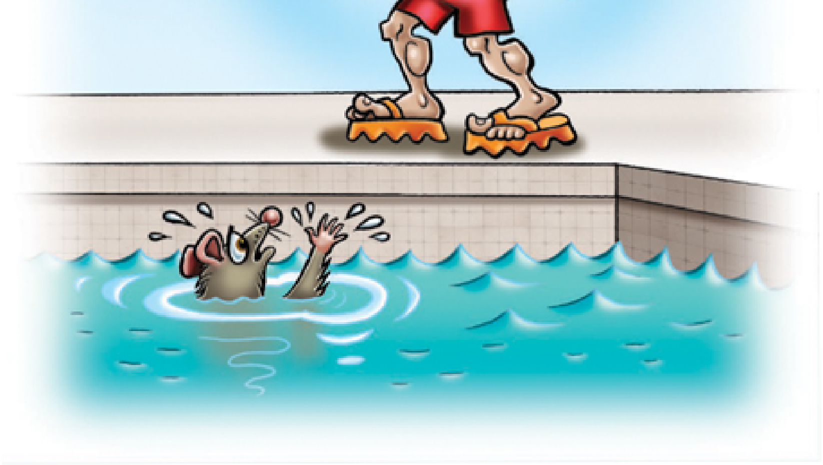
I was coming out of a motel, when my wife called, "Wes, there's a rat in the motel swimming pool. Come and see.

Sure enough, a large rat was in the pool, trying to find a way to get out. He must have gone for a swim during the night not realizing getting in was easy but getting out would be impossible. He looked exhausted and was barely able to keep his head above water.

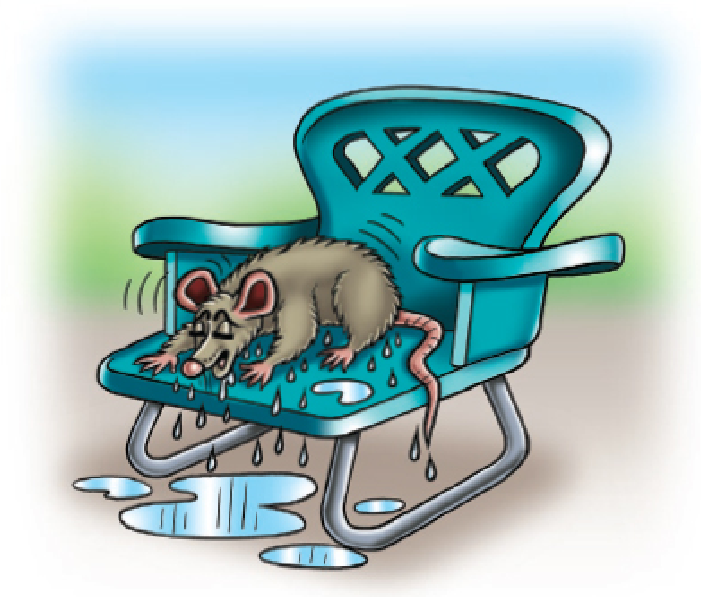


Although he was swimming along the opposite end of the pool, when he saw me, to my utter surprise, he rat-paddled straight toward me. He came right up close to where I stood at the edge of the pool as if he was saying, “Help me. You’re my only hope!”

I said to my wife, Bonnie, “Where’s a stick so I can kill him.” She said, “No, don’t kill him. Save him!”

I thought, "Save a rat?" Then I thought, "This is the only rat that has ever asked for my help!" Right then I decided to save him. I took a patio chair and dipped it down under him and brought him up on the chair so he couldn't bite me.

He sat there on the chair, too tired to move, rocking a little back and forth. My wife and I got in the car and left him there. I had saved him, but had no desire for further fellowship!



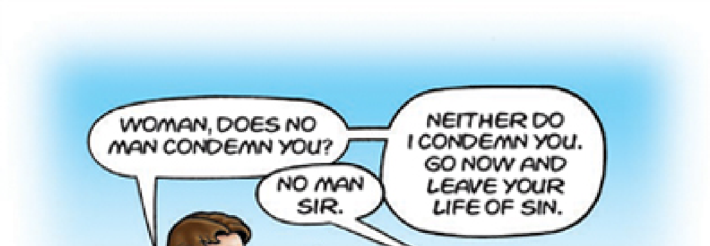
There are some similarities in the way I saved the rat and in the way Jesus saves people. But there are major differences.

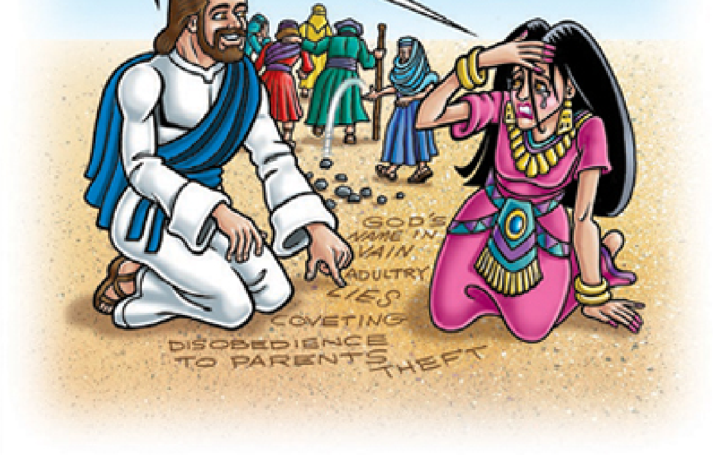
Similarities: Like the rat, we've all fallen into the pool of sin, so to speak. And as the rat discovered, there is no way to get out! We cannot save ourselves. We, too, need a savior. Jesus said, ***"If you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins," (John 8:24 NIV).***

Jesus is God in human form—holy, sinless and totally pure. He could easily whack all of us with his sword of divine judgment. But as the rat was rescued, even though he was a rat, we too, will be rescued by God if we will come to Christ and ask for his mercy.

When Jesus was on the earth, the Pharisees brought a woman to him who had been caught in the act of adultery. The law said to stone such a person. Jesus said, ***"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her," (John 8:7 NIV).*** Then he wrote on the ground. We suppose he wrote the secret sins of the judgmental men because they left, starting with the oldest down to the youngest. Jesus was the man without sin, but instead of stoning her he said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, "No one sir." He said, ***"Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin," (Jn. 8:10-11 NIV).***

The differences: Drowning in a swimming pool is nothing compared to drowning in sin. Every human body eventually dies, but the Bible says, ***"People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment," (Heb. 9:27 NIV).***


WOMAN, DOES NO MAN CONDEMN YOU?
NO MAN SIR.
NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU. GO NOW AND LEAVE YOUR LIFE OF SIN.

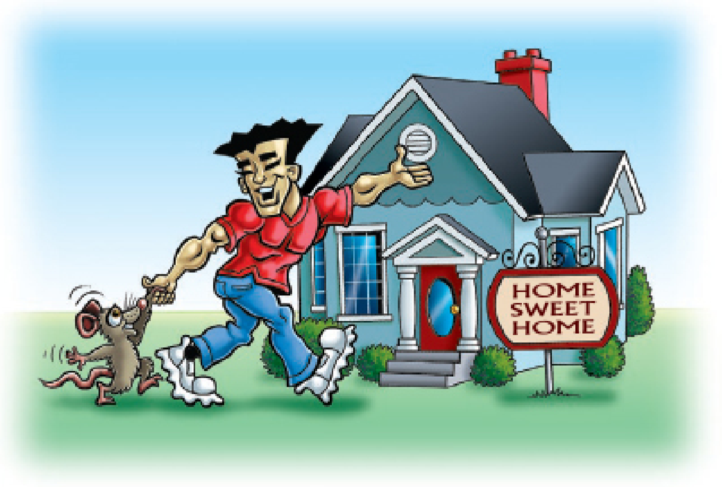


"After that to face judgment" means that the spirit and soul live on and if already separated from God, the separation becomes permanent. ***Those people "perish" in a fiery torment that God prepared for the devil and his angels (see Matt. 25:41).***

Another difference: When I took the rat out of the pool he was still a rat! But when Jesus lifts you out of the pool of sin he will put his own nature within you, and change you from a sinner to a child of God. The Bible says, ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.***

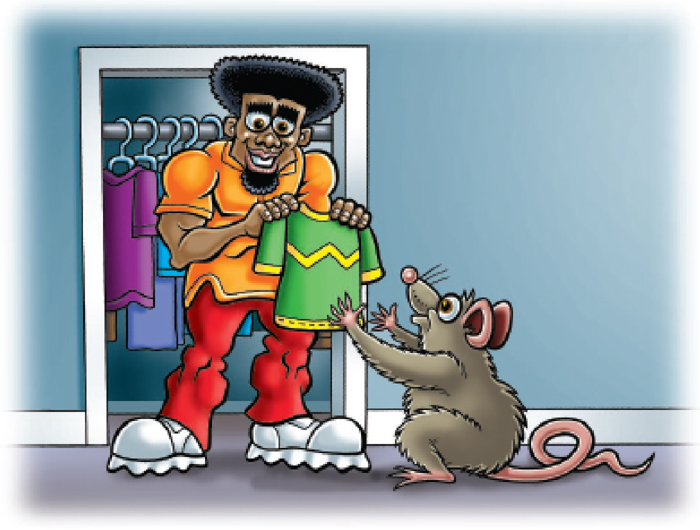
***The old has passed away; behold, the new has come,"* (2 Cor. 5:17 ESV).**

Here are some things I did not do for the rat. I didn't say, "Mr. Rat, I want you to come home and live with me. I never want to part from you."



However, when you come to Christ he will want to keep you so that you will spend eternity with him. The Bible says, ***"He is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"* (Jude 1:245 KJV).**

Something else: I didn't say, "Mr. Rat, I love you so much I want you to wear all my clothes. My wardrobe is yours. What I wear, you are free to wear." But when Jesus saves you he gives you a free robe of righteousness. Isaiah wrote, ***"I will delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness," (Isa. 61:10 NIV).***



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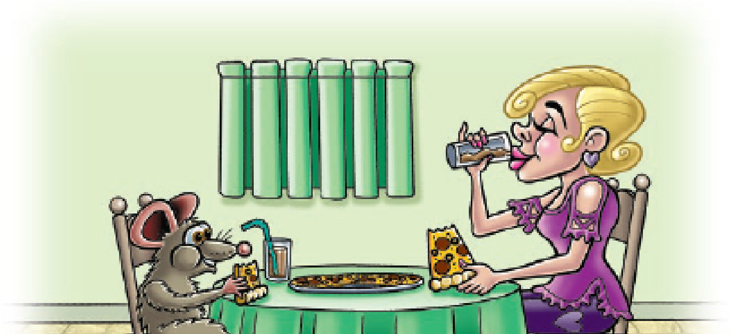
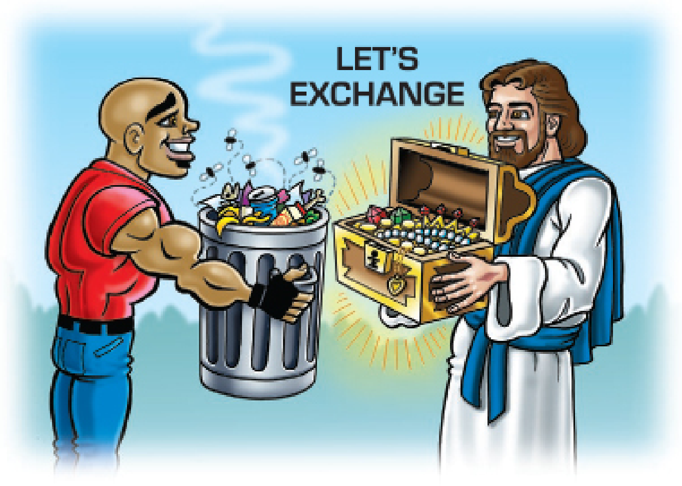


Oh, and I didn't let the rat start eating at my table! I didn't say, "Here, Mr. Rat, feast on this. Come to my table daily. You can share all my food." But the Bible invites us to ***"Come, all you who are thirsty. Come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk without money and without cost." (Isa 55:1 NIV).*** This is the spiritual food Jesus spoke of when he said, ***"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God," (Matt. 4:4 NIV).***

When you buy with money there is an equal exchange of value. The money is worth the milk and the milk is worth the money. When you buy without money there is still an exchange, but it's not equal in value! You give God your trash, (sins, addictions, failures) and he will give you his treasure (love, self control and a sound mind). Paul wrote, ***"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind," (2 Tim. 1:7 NKJV).*** It's an exchange. He said to "buy it" but since it's priceless, you must buy without money. So actually, it's free. Just give God the trash of your life and he'll give you the treasures of his kingdom that includes the best spiritual food.

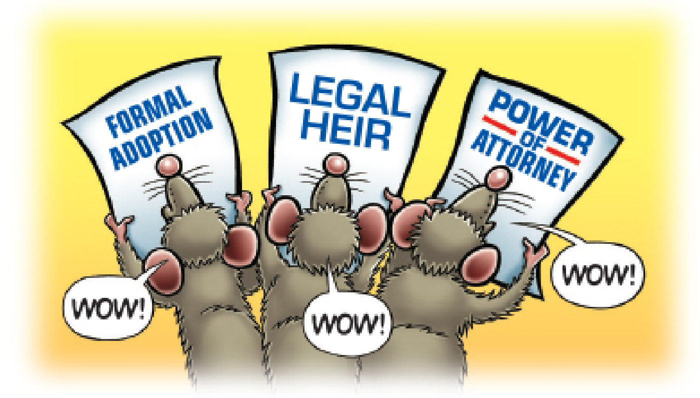


It gets even better! I didn't say, "Mr. Rat. I've adopted you as my son! Yes, I've made you the heir of my entire estate." God's love for us is truly amazing and beyond comprehension. The Bible declares, ***"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us," (Rom. 5:8 NIV).*** Okay, Jesus died for you, paid off your debt of sin and rose from the dead. But where does the Bible say he will share his whole kingdom with you as a co-heir? The Bible says, ***"Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may share in his glory," (Rom. 8:17 NIV).***

Jesus said, ***"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom," (Luke 12:32 NIV).*** This means if you'll receive Christ, God will give you everything he is in his character and everything he has as well! You say, "Everything he has?"

Look at this: Jesus said, ***"To the one***

who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne," (Rev. 3:21 NIV). Jesus will share his very throne with you! Be aware, Christians do suffer persecution here on earth, and we must not turn away from Christ and jump back into the pool of sin!


FORMAL ADOPTION
LEGAL HEIR
POWER OF ATTORNEY
WOW!
WOW!
WOW!

been to a lawyer and arranged for you to have power of attorney. You can now use my name to conduct my business affairs on my behalf." But Jesus gives us the right to use his name to do his work on the earth. Jesus said, ***"And I will do whatever***

you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it," (John 14:13-14 NIV). He also said, ***"In my name they will drive out demons," (Mark 16:17 NIV).*** That means that you will have authority over evil spirits instead of the devil and his demons having authority or control over you.

Coming to Christ isn't hard. You won't have to change yourself. He'll do that. Just believe that Jesus is God in human form, that he died for your sins and rose from the dead. Ask him to forgive you for the bad things you've done and forgive you for the good things you failed to do. Then receive him by asking him to come in and live inside of you by his Spirit.

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, I come to you in Jesus name. I believe Jesus came to earth to save sinners, and I am one. I'm in the pool of sin, but I want out. I'd like you to save me from eternal punishment and save me unto yourself, to keep me as your very own. I receive you now. I open the door of my heart and say, "Come in, Lord Jesus, by your Spirit, and live in me."

Now thank God for your salvation. Get a Bible in a translation that you can understand and read it daily. Be baptized in water as a public testimony that you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior. Find a church that honors God and loves people. Join that group and let them love you and help you learn how to apply God's ways to daily living.

Oh, one more thing: Never say, "I'm just a sinner saved by grace." No, you aren't a rescued rat! You are a new creation in Christ, God's very own child. ***You've been born again, born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:3-7).***

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