

A Passion for Saving Others

Jesus had a passion for saving souls from sin. He left the glory of heaven to intentionally sacrifice himself for us (Philippians 2:1-8)! His passion for saving others is rooted deeply in His love (Romans 5:5-10). And He called us to love one another as He loved us (John 13:34-35).

A new movie just might give you a gut-check in the realm of having a passion for saving others. *Hacksaw Ridge* is the true story of Desmond Doss. Described as a quiet, skinny kid from Lynchburg, Virginia, Doss believed, religiously, that he could not bear arms against anyone, not even an enemy. Without delving into that religious debate, I want to focus on his deep passion for saving others.

Doss did not shrink back from danger. He was not afraid to enter the fray of real battle with real bullets. Desmond suffered in boot camp, being disparaged by fellow soldiers and officers alike. Accused as a coward, Doss proved exactly the opposite. He was as courageous as any medic that ever served.

During one of the fiercest battles on the island of Okinawa, Doss literally saved seventy-five men. He repeatedly entered severe danger to save wounded soldiers, praying each time, "Lord, let me save one more." Doss was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945 by President Truman, himself, becoming the first conscientious objector to be awarded that prestigious medal. He died in 2006 and was buried in the Chattanooga National Cemetery beneath a flyover of military helicopters in tribute formation.

Doss's passion for saving others played out on this earth in a physical battle. We are challenged by the Captain of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10, KJV) to do as Paul did, "by all means save some" (I Corinthians 9:11). Doss saved human life on earth. We are called to reach human souls for eternity. Doss received the Medal of Honor; we shall receive the crown of eternal life with our Captain, our Lord and Master, Jesus the Messiah.

I count it an honor to have personally stood at the very spot where American forces first landed on Okinawa. But I consider it infinitely greater to be in the Lord's army as a soldier who is called to save others by bringing them to Him.

As we remember all the military men and women who served, those who came home and those who did not, let us also remember the one who died on the cross to save us, then called us to help Him save others.

-Ray Wallace