Uncle Tom’s Cabin Essay

Alesha Bork

Once there of heard a story about a boy named Daniel thrown into the lions den. Daniel, a faithful boy who prayed morning noon and night came to be a hard worker and the king wanted him to rule after him. The men who disliked him had a plan, they made it so that if Daniel prayed to anyone but the king he would happen to end up thrown into the lions den. Daniel, sacrificing his safety, got caught praying and thrown into the lions den. When morning came the people saw Daniel seemed unharmed by the lions. The reason being that Daniel prayed to God all the night he was faithful so God closed the mouths of the lions to prove Daniels faith. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote a book called *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in the 1800s about slavery. Stowe portrays a true Christian as someone driven by forgiveness, faithfulness, and sacrifice.

Through forgiveness people can change. Forgiveness can change the way people think, act, or believe. Such as what happened to Sambo and Quimbo when Tom said, “I forgive you, with all my heart!”. (page 471) Sambo and Quimbo realized how troubled, wicked, and wrong they belonged. They wanted to make a change after seeing how brave Tom acted in the face of death. Tom forgave them for their wrongs and they cried as if starting anew. It makes someone a better person knowing that they are forgiven for what they have done. On the other hand even though forgiveness helps, sometimes a person needs more. Legree grew up with a Christian mother who saw past his wickedness, “The letter told [Legree] his mother was dead, and that, dying, she blest and forgave him.” (page 423) Legree’s mother forgave him for all the times that he beat and abused her, but to no avail. Legree’s heart hardened so by evil that forgiveness could not get through to him. As Tom lay dying he said to Legree, “Ye poor miserable critter, there aint no more ye can do! I forgive ye, with all my soul!” (page 471) Even though Legree has beat Tom to the point that Tom knows he will die, he still forgives his tormentor. A true Christian can be defined as someone who forgives all things whether they be wicked or not.

Faithfulness can be described as believing in something with all a person has to give. There are many characters in this book such as Tom, George Harris, Eliza, Eva and many more. By having faith in many ways Eliza remained strong,” But stronger than all was maternal love.” (page 55) Eliza, through faithfulness and motherly instinct gained the courage to take her son and run to save him from slavery. She stayed strong and brave, her faithfulness in God she spoke of, “ we must have faith … we must believe that God is doing the very best.” Eliza wanted her husband, George, to believe that God will never desert them and would help them through their problems. Just believe and have faith in God, things will turn out, they may take a few wrong turns but they always find their way to the right path. Another case of faithfulness brings us back to Tom at a doubtful time in his life which will change when he hears Jesus Christ say to him in a vision, “’He that overcometh shall sit down with me on my throne, even as [Jesus] also overcame, and am set down with my father on his throne.’” (page 444) Tom has seen a vision. Jesus came to him and says that if Tom can overcome his doubt just as Christ has done he will be with the Lord after death. Tom’s faith is restored tenfold in the face of Legree. A true Christian holds true to faithfulness and will never truly let go.

To give something dear or important up, or to risk getting caught for a just reason can be known as sacrifice. Many characters gave a sacrifice in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* such as Tom, Mr. Bird, and Cassy. There could be several kinds of sacrifice such as you could sacrifice your self to save others like Jesus did. He sacrificed Himself to save us from our sins, He died for us, He gave the ultimate sacrifice, His life. Tom also made a sacrifice by choosing to be sold, “ If I must be sold, or all the people on the place, and everything go to rack, why, let me be sold.” Tom shows courage, fearfulness, and bravery by sacrificing himself to protect the other slaves on the plantation. He leaves the Shelby’s plantation knowing that even though his life on that plantation ended, the lives of the others there will carry on and not be ruined by the burden of being bought by a cruel man. There is a kind of sacrifice that may be viewed as wrong or there just had to a reason for this person to do such a thing. That statement could voice its way to Cassy for this reason, ”O, that child! -- how I loved it! … yes I had. I would never again let a child live to grow up! … I gave him laudanum, and held him close … while he slept to death.” (page 417) Cassy sacrificed the life of her new born child to make sure that he would not grow up to a harsh world of slavery. She did it out of love and she would do it again if it meant a chance of her baby having to live through the ordeals that she did. Another type of sacrifice could happen by risking getting caught such as with Mr. Bird when he sneaked Eliza and Henry to a safe house of sorts, ”What a situation, now, for a patriotic senator, that had been all the week before spurring up the legislature of his native state to pass more stringent resolutions against escaping fugitives, their harborers and abettors!” (page 100) Mr. Bird risked getting caught for housing and transporting slaves and in major trouble. To add to that Mr. Bird happened to be one of the men who came up with this idea of a law. He could lose his job and family by sacrificing his help the slaves to get to a safe house. A true Christian could be viewed as someone who is willing to sacrifice all they hold dear for the good of others.

The book *Uncle Tom’s* Cabin is a story with many different views to look at. It can teach a lesson if the lessons or morals want to be found. Stowe portrays a true Christian as someone driven by forgiveness, faithfulness, and sacrifice.