

THE WORLD CHANGING DECISION OF A COURAGEOUS BOY NAMED MAX



BY TIMOTHY EWING



Once upon a time in a small town named Brookhaven, there lived a cheerful and kind-hearted boy named Max. Brookhaven was the kind of town where everyone knows each other by name. In Max's town, the houses looked like colorful boxes with flowers on their porches. There's a special square in the middle of town with a park where kids can play. In the park, there's a pretty pavilion where sometimes people would play music or have parties. When you walk down the main street, you'll see cute little stores. There's a bakery that smells like delicious cookies, a cozy bookstore with lots of books to read, and a friendly general store where people buy all the things they need. Max's town is also very old, so there are big buildings that look like castles! One of them is a church with a tall pointy tower. People go there to pray and sing songs together. All around Max's town, there are fields with tall plants like wheat and corn. There are also lots of colorful flowers growing everywhere. Everyone in Max's town is super nice. They always say "hello" and help each other out. It's a happy place where Max and his friends love to play and explore together!



At first glance, Max may appear to be just an ordinary kid, much like any other you might encounter in your own neighborhood. Max attends the local elementary school, which is small but cozy, with just a few classrooms for each grade.

He walks to school with his friends every morning, chatting about the latest adventures they had over the weekend or the upcoming town fair.



In his free time, Max loves to explore the outdoors. He often goes hiking with his dog, Buddy, along the trails that wind through the nearby forests.



He enjoys fishing in the creek, spending lazy afternoons with his fishing rod in hand, waiting for a bite.

Max has a rich imagination. He spends hours reading books from the town library, immersing himself in fantastical worlds and daring adventures. Sometimes, he even writes his own stories, inspired by the people and places he encounters in his everyday life.



But there was something different about Max that sets him apart from other kids his age. Max had a spirit of kindness and compassion. Max loved to help others and was always looking for ways to help others. Max made it a daily goal to always on the lookout for ways to make a positive difference in the world around him, and people would always compliment him on how polite and respectful he was.



One day, while Max was playing with his friends, his mom called him home in a hurry. Max saw that his friends' parents were calling them home too. When Max got inside, the TV was very loud, and his mom and dad were watching it closely. They were listening to a special news story about a sickness that was spreading in faraway places, making people very sick. Max listened carefully, feeling worried. The news said the sickness started in a small village far away on the other side of the world, but was now spreading all over the world very quickly.



Every day, the news talked about more people getting sick with a strange illness in different countries. The reporter said that when someone gets sick, they feel really bad for a little while, and sadly, most of them have died after only a few weeks. Doctors all over the world are trying really hard to find a cure, but they haven't found one yet. The reporter said, "It's only a matter of time until it comes to the United States." Everyone was scared and worried, watching their TVs closely for any updates they could get. Suddenly, the news came back on, and the reporter said, "The first case of this illness has come to the United States. The person is being watched closely, but the president says everyone should stay home and not go outside or see anyone until we know more."

In Brookhaven, people were feeling very scared because they were worried about a virus coming to their town. Max noticed that his parents were trying to stay calm, but he could tell that the news on TV was upsetting them a lot. His mom decided to turn off the TV and told Max it was time to stop listening to the news and go to bed because it was getting late and he needed rest.



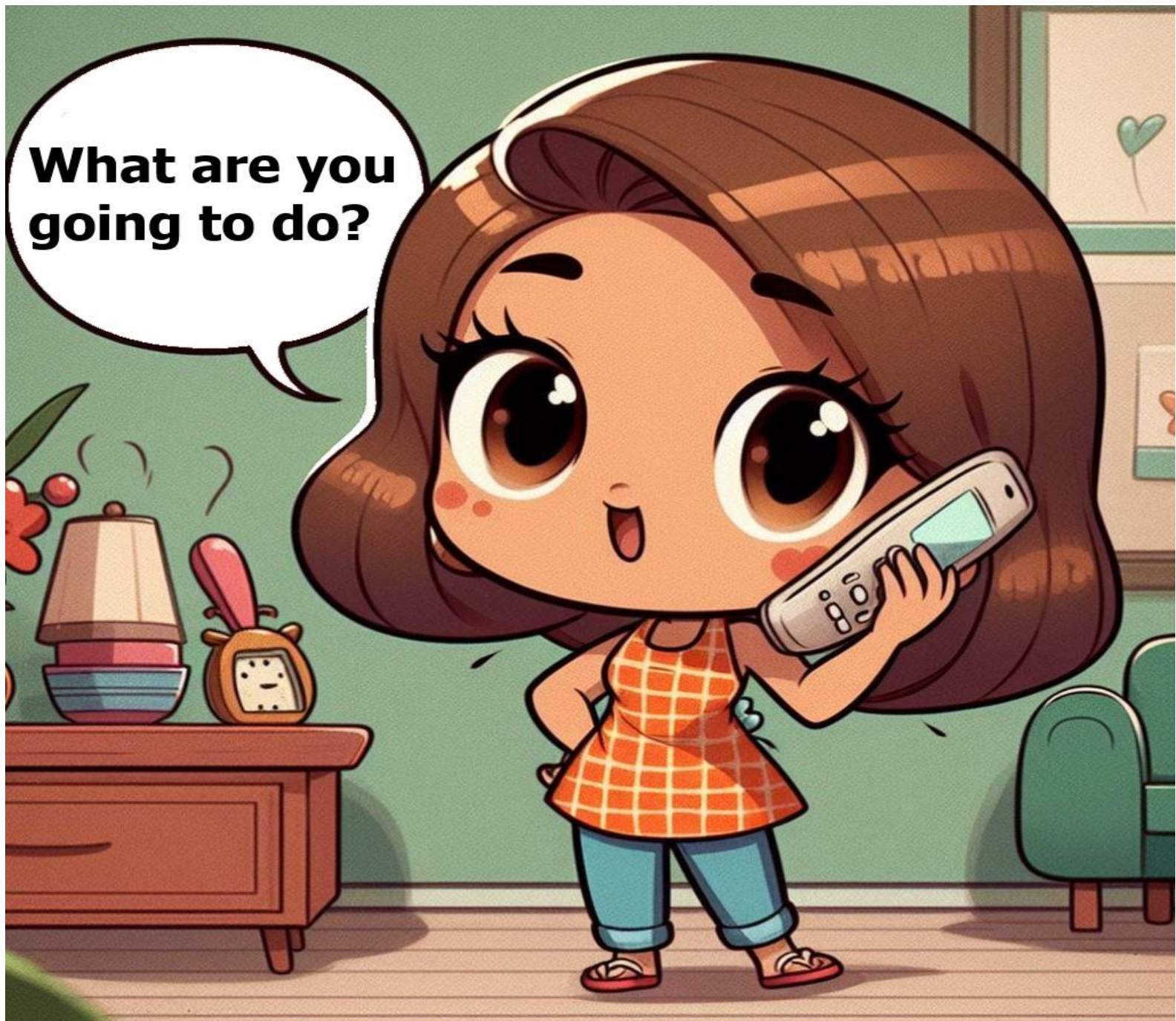
That night,
Max took a bath,

put on his pajamas,



and went straight to sleep.





The next morning, he woke up to the sound of the phone ringing in the other room. He could hear his mom talking to Mrs. Smith, who was David's mom and Max's best friend. At first, his mom sounded cheerful, but then her tone changed. She started asking questions like, "Are you sure?" and "What are you going to do?" Max realized that something was wrong.



After the phone call, his mom knocked on his door and asked if he slept okay. Max said he slept okay but had a bad dream that woke him up. His mom then told him that Mrs. Smith called to say that David wasn't feeling well and that she was taking her whole family to the hospital to get checked out. Max looked at his parents, his eyes shining with determination. "I want to help," he said firmly. "I'll do anything to stop this sickness." His parents looked at each other, feeling worried for their brave son. But they knew Max was determined to help. With a sigh, they nodded, knowing they couldn't stop him from trying to make a difference. Max's mom nodded, her expression serious. "We'll have to wait and see what the doctors say," she agreed. "For now, let's check the news to see if there are any updates."



They turned on the TV, and the news anchor read a message from the mayor. Max listened intently as the anchor explained that some people in Brookhaven were showing symptoms of the mystery virus. The mayor urged everyone to go to the hospital to be tested, but only when the police escorts arrived. They were told to wear special suits for safety. Max's heart raced as he realized the seriousness of the situation. He knew he had to do whatever he could to help stop the spread of the virus.

After what felt like forever, the Thompson family heard a loud knock on the door. A voice boomed from a loudspeaker outside, saying, "Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, it's time for you and Max to go to the hospital. We've left suits on your doorstep. Please put them on and come out right away. The hospital needs you." Quickly, they got dressed in the special suits and held each other's hands tightly as a police officer drove them to the hospital.





At the hospital, Max and his parents were quickly taken to a room. They watched as doctors and nurses worked hard to fight the sickness spreading everywhere. The hospital was very busy, with people rushing around, looking tired but determined. Finally, it was Max's turn to be tested. He bravely held out his arm as a nurse pricked his finger to take a small bit of blood. Max felt a little pain, but he stayed strong as he saw the red drops go into a small bottle.



Hours passed, filled with nervous waiting, until finally, the doctor emerged with a huge smile on his face. "Max," he said, "Your blood is clean. You haven't been infected by the illness." Max asked about his parents, and the doctor's smile faded. "I'm sorry," he said, "but they've been infected too." Max's heart sank, and he asked if there was anyone else who could help. The doctor explained that he was the only one they'd found with clean blood. "The only cure for this disease is pure blood from an uninfected person," the doctor said. "That person is you, Max. We need all of your blood to make enough medicine to save others."



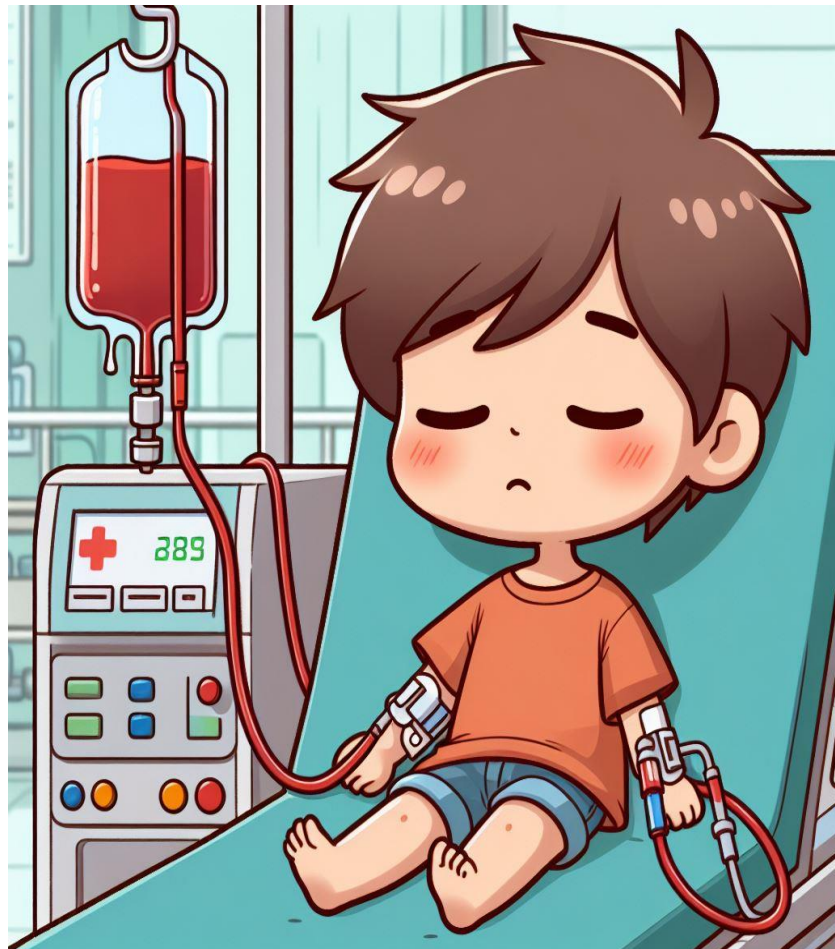
Max felt scared and unsure. He asked if his parents knew, and the doctor said they did, leaving the decision up to Max.

"If you agree," the doctor said, "you'll probably die. But you'll save the entire world from dying. With your blood, the sick can be healed." Max hesitated, thinking about his family and friends. "Is there really no one else?" he asked. The doctor shook his head sadly. "No, son," he said. "You're our only hope." Max looked at his parents, his heart heavy. In that moment, Max made his choice. He would give all of his blood, and ultimately his life, to save the world.

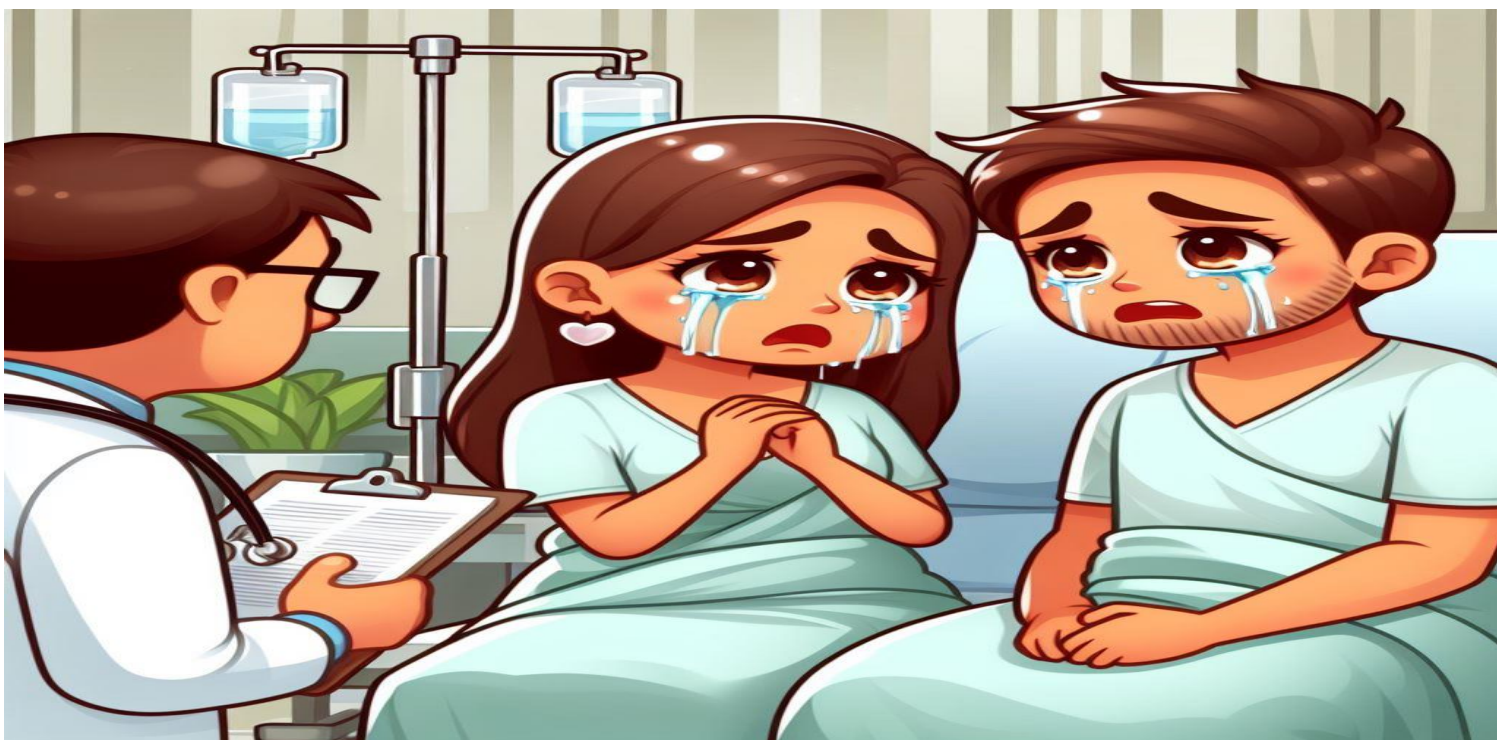


With a trembling hand, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson signed the consent form. Max looked up at them with tear-filled eyes. Before the procedure began, Max's parents hugged him tightly. "We're so proud of you, Max," his mom said. "You're a true hero."

As the doctors and nurses prepared, Max felt scared but determined. He closed his eyes and whispered a silent prayer. As the procedure began, Max felt a sense of peace wash over him. As he closed his eyes for the very last time, he knew his sacrifice would not be in vain.



After the procedure, the doctor visited Max's parents with a heavy heart. "The procedure was a success," he said, "but unfortunately, we lost Max in the process." Max's parents felt a wave of grief wash over them, but the doctor continued, "Max's final wish was that you receive the first antidote. We can't thank you enough for what you did for not just our town, but for the world." The antidote worked just as the doctor said.



Those who were sick recovered and returned to their normal lives, as healthy as ever. The world slowly returned back to normal, and life continued as it always had. But as time passed, people started to forget about Max's sacrifice. Some whispered about the boy who had given his life to save the world, while others dismissed the story as a fairy tale. But deep in the hearts of those who remembered Max's sacrifice, his bravery and selflessness continued to inspire hope and kindness for generations to come. Though Max may have been gone, his legacy lived on, reminding everyone of the power of love and sacrifice to change the world for the better.

Dear readers,

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the powerful themes and moral implications woven throughout its narrative. While this story may not draw from any specific religious or biblical context, it carries profound messages that challenge us to ponder the nature of sacrifice, love, and humanity.

How would you feel if you were the boy in this story? How would you feel if you were the parents? These are questions that invite us to put ourselves in the shoes of the characters and consider the weight of their decisions. As the boy, one might feel a mixture of fear, uncertainty, and ultimately, a sense of purpose and determination to help others. Would you have the courage to make such a sacrifice, knowing the consequences? As the parents, one might feel a profound sense of pride in their son's courage, coupled with the agony of having to make an unimaginable choice. Would you be willing to make such a sacrifice, even if it meant losing the most precious thing in your life, your one and only son?

These questions invite us to explore the depths of our empathy and moral compass. But beyond the individual characters and their dilemmas, there lies a broader message about the nature of sacrifice and the choices we make in the face of adversity. Throughout history, countless individuals have faced similar challenges, forced to confront their own values and priorities in moments of crisis.

But beyond the individual characters and their sacrifices, there is a greater parallel to be drawn, that of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross for the sins of humanity. Just as the boy in the story gave his lifeblood to save others from a deadly illness, Jesus willingly laid down His life to save us from the eternal consequences of sin. His sacrifice was the ultimate act of love, offering redemption and forgiveness to all who would believe in Him. Think about it for a moment. The depth of God's love for us is beyond comprehension. He loved us so much that He was willing to send His only Son to die on the cross for our sins. That's how much He loves us – enough to sacrifice everything to restore our relationship with Him.

Now that you know how much God loves you and what it took to restore our relationship with Him, does your appreciation grow? If you already have a relationship with Him, does this knowledge deepen your love and gratitude? And if you don't have a relationship with Him, does it spark a desire to begin one today?

God wants a relationship with you, and He offers a free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. But we have to accept it. It's not enough to simply know about it; we must personally accept His gift of grace and forgiveness.

So, will you be like those who forgot and weren't grateful for the sacrifice, or will you accept the gift? The choice is yours. I urge you to consider carefully, for the decision you make will shape your eternity.

With love and blessings,

Timothy Ewing