

Children Story:

From Rags to Riches

Props needed for the story:

Bring a coin for every child. A quarter (\$0.25) or a dollar coin (\$1.00); that you can give to the children at the end of the story.

Bring a Basketball ball

Bring a photo of Jimmy Butler or show it on the screen.



Hi children:

Our Bible verse for today is found in Matthew 6:19-20

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

Do you know that you can send treasures to heaven? Yes indeed, the bible tells us that you can store treasures in heaven. How can you do that? By helping people.

Jimmy Butler, a 6x NBA Allstar with 2 NBA Finals appearances, was kicked out of the house by his mother, at the age of 13. Imagine growing up without a dad and the only parent you know kicks you out, leaving you alone on the street.

He had to stay with different friends for short periods until his senior year in high school, when his friend's mother, **Michelle Lambert**, took him in and treated him like part of the family.

During his time in high school, the game of basketball became a love, a safe place and distraction for him. Although a talented player with great dedication to the game, at the end of his senior year, no colleges noticed him, and he received no offers. But he wouldn't give up because he knew despite the odds, he belonged.

He got into Tyler junior college, and with his play on the court, universities couldn't help but notice. Shortly after, he was offered a scholarship at Marquette University. **The head coach Buzz Williams** noticed Jimmy's determination. Noticing that, he pushed Jimmy more than Jimmy had ever been pushed before, hoping Jimmy would see his own full potential. Jimmy even thought of quitting basketball because the work was so intense.

But this unlocked a different gear in Jimmy, and he became a starter in his junior year. His incredible defense and well-rounded game helped the Golden Eagles to appear in March Madness in each of his three seasons at Marquette. He averaged 16 points per game and went on to be the 30th pick in the 2011 NBA Draft.

He played 6 seasons with the Bulls, before playing for Timberwolves, 76ers, and now the Heat, where he is the highest paid player with many awards to his name. Butler's story shows determination, hard work, and to believe that you belong despite the odds.

Two people in Jimmy's life made a difference for him. **Michelle Lambert** (his second mother) and **Buzz Williams** (his basketball coach). Without their help, he could have not been the successful man he was.

This is what Ellen White says:

"Every opportunity **to help a brother in need**, or **to aid the cause of God in the spread of the truth**, is a pearl that you can send beforehand, and **deposit in the bank of heaven** for safe keeping."

So every time you see a basketball (**show the ball**), remember that you can help people and when you do, you are sending your treasures to heaven. Every time you return your tithes and offering to help preach the gospel, you are storing your money in the bank of heaven. I am going to give you a coin to place in the offering plate today, (**give each child a coin**) so you remember that these funds will help others to know about Jesus.

Let's pray: "Dear Jesus, help us to be ready to help others and keep our treasures in heaven." Amen!