

## Doc's Daddy

**Many of you were privileged to have known Doc Dawson**, and if you knew him, then you were also touched by his compassion, his kindness, and his drive to continually help people in need. If you really knew Doc, then you certainly have heard him talk about his daddy. But just in case you haven't heard the story from Doc's own mouth, I thought I would write some of it down for you so you would know the whole story of how Doc became the man that he was.

**Doc told me that his daddy was in the cattle business** and that he was very rich. But, some things just never seemed to add up. Doc received many presents from his daddy, but every one of them that came were other people's discards. Old cars, old houses, old chairs, tables and furniture, broken people, abused and neglected children all came to Doc sent from his daddy. Doc never seemed to mind that they were all broken. Every time his daddy sent him another broken one, Doc would smile like a kid at Christmas. Pretty soon I realized that Doc's daddy wasn't really in the cattle business. He was in the reclamation business, and Doc was the spitting image of his daddy.

**I remember how Doc always wanted to drive a Cadillac**, and then one day, one arrived as a present from his daddy. Just like all the others, it was old, outdated, and needed some work. But, Doc was all smiles. He loved his daddy and always sang his praises wherever he went.

**Doc wasn't always like this.** Early in his life, Doc was estranged from his daddy and didn't willingly participate in the family business. Many of you may not have known that Doc had an older brother who died tragically. Doc was very careless about his life and his work, and one day that carelessness caused a tragedy to befall upon the family business. Somehow, miraculously, Doc was saved, but his brother's life was taken. It was a very bloody scene and one that would affect Doc the rest of his life. He always had tears in his eyes when he retold that story.

**I wondered how his daddy could forgive him**, knowing that it was his carelessness that caused the tragic death of his elder son. Yet, somehow this event brought the two of them back together. Doc's daddy is the most compassionate and forgiving person that I have ever met. His love and acceptance transformed Doc's life. Doc became totally committed to the family business. He loved to reclaim everything that his daddy sent him.

**The reclamation business is a very expensive and time consuming business.** It absolutely consumed Doc's life. Many times, it cost more than Doc had, to restore what his daddy had sent him. That never seemed to stop Doc. He always told me that his daddy owned the cattle on a thousand hills. He always believed that if he stuck with the family business, no matter how difficult it seemed or how much it cost, that his daddy would always be there to help him finish the job.

**Time and time again, Doc would rack up an insurmountable debt** in reclaiming what his daddy had sent him. And always, it seemed, just in the nick of time, his daddy would show up secretly, and provide exactly what was needed. Sometimes he would send some of his friends with a financial gift or to help in

the work. His daddy seemed to have an endless supply of help and helpers. Maybe he really was in the cattle business too. He probably needed another business to help supply the needed finances for the reclamation business. For it is, indeed, a very expensive business.

**On November 28, 2008, Doc and his brother were reunited.** I am certain that Doc had tears in his eyes as he once again told his brother how sorry he was for his carelessness that had brought about his brother's death. I am also certain that his brother wiped away those tears and welcomed Doc. He was very glad to know that Doc had recommitted himself to the family business. That was all that mattered.

**Many people are going to miss Doc.** If you had the privilege of just spending one week at one of his camps, you probably have several stories you could tell about Doc. Some of you might have taken a parenting class from him, worked alongside of him at New Day, or maybe even lived with Doc and Sandy for a season. Every one of us who knew him has many stories to tell his reclamation business. I just wanted to make sure you knew the story of Doc's daddy.

**The amazing thing is that though Doc is gone, his daddy is still alive!** I had the privilege of meeting him over thirty-four years ago. I can tell you for sure, that once you meet him, your life will never be the same again. His tender love and compassion for your stupidity and your weaknesses will overwhelm you. His forgiveness and his ability to love the hurting and the broken will absolutely astound you. If you thought Doc was good at the reclamation business, you should meet his daddy! I do want to warn you though. As soon as you meet him, he will offer you a position in his family business and make you a joint heir of the wealth of the family. You, too, will be asked to totally commit yourself to the family business of reclamation. Are you ready? Just remember Doc, the story of his brother and daddy, and that the reclamation business is a very expensive business, indeed!

**God Bless You  
Jim Thomas**

**P.S. The New Day Family thanks Pastor Jim Thomas for sharing the story of Doc and his Daddy. In his story, Doc's Daddy represents God the Father, and Doc's brother is our Lord Jesus. Doc was indeed in the reclamation business. His ministry was to reclaim lives; new lives for old.**