

### Y-WoW Nation

#### **The Blind Side**

##### *Scripture:*

*“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.” (Luke 6:35 NIV)*

The Blind Side is an incredible film which recounts the story of the wealthy Memphis family that adopted Michael Oher, a young man from an extremely dysfunctional family surviving in an underprivileged part of town. With this film, Sandra Bullock earned an Academy Award for her portrayal of Leanne Touhy, the strong-willed Christian mother who upon learning of Oher's circumstances reached out to him and changed both of their lives forever. Not only did the Touhys open their home to the disadvantaged youth and make him part of their family, but they also helped Oher achieve academic success first in high school and later at the collegiate level. A naturally gifted athlete and aspiring football player, Oher eventually earned a spot in the NFL with the Baltimore Ravens. At the same time that his lifelong dream came true, the film based on Oher's life hit movie theaters and immediately struck a chord with mainstream America. Since then, Leanne and her husband, Sean, have been celebrated for their efforts as much as their adopted son has been hailed for his heroics on the football field. The Touhys have been frequent guests on television talk shows. They've been invited to events including the Academy Awards. They're fixtures at Ravens football games. And Leanne, an interior decorator by profession, has even been featured as a designer in several episodes of the hit TV show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. All of these incredible blessings have resulted from one simple act of kindness between a loving mother and a child in need.

The story of Michael Oher and the Touhys is fascinating because it speaks to the power of human kindness. Miracles can happen when we share God's love and blessings with others. The power to make a difference is not reserved for those who are rich or famous. Anyone anywhere can make a difference. Opportunities abound whether at home, at school, at church or in the community—there are opportunities for involvement all around us. We just have to care enough to get involved. As Christians, that's what we're called to do—to show compassion to others.

Perhaps the most beautiful and noteworthy lesson that's evident in the Michael Oher story is the fact that the Touhys did their good deeds without expecting anything in return. As Christians, that's precisely what we should do. God wants us to show love and kindness to others, even our enemies, because we are His representatives on earth not because we expect to receive payment for services rendered. And each time we bless our enemies or do good deeds without expecting anything in return, He records it in Heaven so that He can repay us at a later date (Luke 6:23-33, Matt. 5:39-48). God loves to reward His children for their good deeds. And that's surely an incentive to do good works. But what's more important is the fact that we become better people for having had the opportunity to show kindness to others. We become more like Christ—more loving, more compassionate, more considerate—every time we bless our enemies or give to others in need. So give, share, love and serve whom you can right where you are. For as the Touhy family clearly has shown, it is in giving that we receive.

Be blessed.

Elle Bailey