



## 2019 – November – Isaiah

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“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”  
2 Corinthians 5:17

Hi, my name is Isaiah, or that is what it has become since I came to True Vine Equestrian Center. When I first came everyone said I must be a Warmblood.

In order to start my story I need to back up. Most of my time before I came to live at True Vine is a blur moving from place to place. I vaguely remember my mother and a nice barn where I was well cared for and treated kindly. I was taught to lead, load in a trailer, and all the beginning things a human does to teach manners to a young horse. But then everything changed. I didn't understand why I was loaded into a trailer and left in a new place. For the next part of my life all I remember is pain, hunger, and itching. One of my back feet hurt so badly I couldn't put any weight on it. Soon I was moved to another place. When my back foot finally began to feel better, my left front foot began to hurt. I heard the word abscess. I was moved again. The searing pain was so great I couldn't move. I was cold and wet. There wasn't enough food for any of the horses at this place. I began to lose weight. Another horse was so hungry he began to chew on my tail. I could hardly get around to eat what little hay was available, let alone escape from my tail-eating shadow. One of the other horses had lice and so pretty soon, so did I. My skin became crusty. I itched. I heard people talking. They didn't think I had much to offer. They said I was untrained and gangly. I could walk on all four feet now, but my chest had become so thin due to lack of muscle that I had to stand with my front and back legs toed out to be able to support my weight. I also heard the word auction.

It was April and I was four years old. I was loaded on a trailer and taken to an auction. Auctions are places where some horses get a great new home. But I was ushered into a kill pen. With little energy, I stood in this dark place. A tall thin man with gray hair slid past me, giving me the once over. Walking away as he eyed my condition, he said, “This one is only good for meat.” There were so many humans, but none seemed to pay any attention to me. Just as I was about to give up, there was a spark of hope.

“What about that one?” I heard a girl say. They weren't looking at me. I was desperate. There was a whole group of humans. From their conversation I gathered they only had enough money to rescue one horse from this dreadful fate of being transported to a slaughter house. How could I get their attention? “Pick me,” I thought, “Pick me.” How could I call out to them?

Then it happened. A chance. Two of the adults with all these kids were looking at me! I looked directly into their eyes. I put my nose toward them and began moving my lips.

One of the ladies said to the other, "What is he doing?" The other lady answered, "I think he is calling to us. I think he wants us to come and see him." Moments later they were at my side. Their loving, warm touch was gentle. They were talking. Then there were more. The group of kids were with me! They prayed. They said I was the one! I had nothing to offer them. I was dirty, and broken. They all left. I didn't understand, but soon I was herded alone to a place full of people staring at me. A man began to chant words I could not understand. A few hands shot up. "Sold!" rang out a voice. "Other," the chanting man said (I learned that all the other horses in the "Other" pen were also purchased by someone other than one of the meat buyers.) Then I was ushered into the "Other" pen. I waited. Where were those kind people who surrounded me earlier? I waited. All at once they were with me! They were so happy. One of the girls put a halter on me. I was loaded into a trailer. I was rescued! I was redeemed from the snare of death. There was nothing I could do to earn salvation. By faith I looked to the ones who could rescue me.



My new home is here at True Vine Equestrian Center. I have gained weight and muscle and my legs have straightened out. My tail has grown and I have energy. I love running in the pasture. I'm thankful for a second chance at life. As my training continues I am learning more and more about what is expected of me. I am willing and eager to serve my master.

By Vickie Nakamura©

*Editor's Note: This is fictional story as to what could have happened to Isaiah before True Vine Equestrian Center's Horse Rescue Team purchased him from a loose pen in April of 2016. At the time of purchase he was very thin with crusty skin and lice. He toed out slightly in all four feet due to sever loss of muscle tone. He was thin, with a rough hair coat and no energy. Two of his feet showed evidence of past hoof abscesses. The lines and ridges in his hoofs indicated many*

*feed changes over the past year. We were unable to obtain any past history or talk to the individual who brought Isaiah to the auction.*

There is nothing Isaiah could do to earn being rescued. We are in desperate circumstances too. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom. 6:23) Sin separates us from God. It saps our strength and enslaves us to a life with no hope. An eternity separated from God. Isaiah couldn't save himself. He needed someone to pay the price and redeem him from slaughter. We need a Savior to save us from eminent death. Jesus Christ is that Savior. Jesus lived a holy life, died on the cross, and then rose from the dead. He willingly paid the price to redeem us. "But God demonstrates his love in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 8:5) "...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trust in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between the Jew and Gentile-the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:9-13)

Here at True Vine we think Isaiah would excel as a dressage horse, but he needs a lot of training. Our Rescue Team is committed to continuing his training, whether it be to move on and compete as a dressage horse or remain as a True Vine program horse.

What if Isaiah ended up in the Olympics some day? What a story that would be!

Please consider sponsoring Isaiah for his needs and future training.

In 2018 the horse rescue team was able to raise enough funds to send Isaiah to the trainer for two months! One of our advanced students then began riding him with the plan to show Isaiah at the VanBuren Youth fair in July of 2019.

Monthly needs: \$120.00. Call 269-501-0529 for more information on sponsoring Isaiah.

Training needs: Spring - \$700.00 for an additional 30 days training.

