

Love Reaches!

Part 8: "Happy to Be Reaching!"

Are you willing to make the "shift of love" to be a good friend who goes and reaches, no matter?

So far... We've reached up to God for resource... For our reach side to side... Established the reality that friends help others to follow Jesus more closely! Must be an eternal component in public, social, private and intimate "circles!" "Friends don't let friends live or die w/o Jesus!"

What could be more friendly than introducing our friends to the One friend who sticks closer than a brother? You can join your friends for temporal activities but make sure you leave them with an eternal connection!

Friends... Help us follow Jesus more closely! Should be our mates, where married! Then "BFF's" (Forever safe)! Always in our business, always loving, seeing, speaking... sharpening our walk! And then to as many people as the Lord has placed in the pathway of our lives! All strata of "friendships!" Are a necessary part of God's plan, therefore a necessity of life!

And there is a test at the end to gauge how effective we have been with our friends! And the results for approaching it with indifference can be devastating! 1Cor3.15

The Grid... Open arms for those returning **Lk15.11ff** The dissatisfied/ used up! **John 4.4ff** The tax collector... \$\$ monger! **Lk5.27** The exploited/exploiters! **John 8.3ff** Help for the broken, beaten life! **Lk10.30ff** The hungry, stranger, naked, sick, imprisoned! **Matt 25.40** Cup of cold water for a child! **Mt 10.42** Going out to get them/power of the Spirit! **Mt 28/Mk 16/L24/J21.15/A1**

"You're not done yet! Without understanding this, they will only be fair-weather friends..." "Only by this can they be friends like Jesus was a friend!"

Matthew 13.47,48 The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea and gathered every kind, which when it was full they drew to shore and sat down and gathered the good into vessels and cast the bad away...

Not every person you catch in your net is going to be happy to see you... Not every person watching you fish is either! And it can get wild from there!

Matthew 5.11,12 Happy and well-off are you, when men defame, rail against, and taunt you, persecuting you for My sake, speaking all manner of evil against you – lying. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

You Friendship Net... We all need to have one to do the best job possible... Many sick and needy that need to be caught before they fall away! Not responsible for mental telepathy... But should feel the tugging... But some folks naturally tear at the net! Some purposely try and tear you!

Old and New Testaments alike, you cannot let other people keep you from doing your job!

Models... Jeremiah! "Before you were born I ordained you to speak for Me. But you said, 'I can't do it!' But I say, go to all that I send you to and whatever I say, you tell them. Don't be afraid of their faces for I will deliver you... Gird up, stand up and speak out what I say, do not be afraid of their faces lest I undo you before them! **1.5-17**

Nehemiah! 9x Sanballat and Tobiah came at him (plus a letter writing campaign)! **2.19 4.1,8 6.2, 4,5,19** Mocked: *They declared their trust!* Angry aspersions: *prayed/kept working!* Gathering of cohorts: *alert/working!* Vain accusations/evil speaking: *"Let God be God!"/working!*

Jesus... "If the world hates you, know that it hated Me before it hated you. Remember what I told you, the servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you... But all these

things they do to you for My name's sake, because they don't know Him who sent me. But when the Comforter is come, who I will send from the Father, He will speak and you will testify! **J15.18-27**

Paul, Peter, John... All threatened and slandered for their work... and just kept on! Committing themselves/detractors to the Lord while they worked on! ***Not trying to give anyone a martyr complex...*** Trying to set us free of fear of paying the price to "WITNESS!" (marturion)

You! "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit Me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble. You are seasoning that brings out the God flavors on the earth. If you lose it they won't be able to taste and see the Kingdom and you'll be tossed under foot! You're a light... so shine! **5.10-12** (Msg pp)

Rejoice when people speak "all manner of evil against you..." "You are joint heirs with Christ if you suffer with Him..." **R8.17** "As you are partakers of His sufferings so will you be of the consolation!" **2C1.7** "It's a light affliction for a moment working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory! **4.17** "Be willing to suffer trouble because of Him, to endure all things to keep going. This is a faithful saying, that if we are dead with Him we will also live with Him: if we suffer with Him we will reign with Him and if we deny Him, He will deny us!" **2Tim 2.9-12**

If people are speaking ill of you because you have done something wrong... Be honest and REPENT! "No reward for taking it patiently when you suffer for your sins! **1P2.20** But if it's not true... REJOICE! BE HAPPY! "Because you were called to follow Christ who didn't revile when He was reviled but trusted Himself to God who judges righteously!" **21-23**

"One will surely declare, 'In the Lord I have my righteousness and strength...' and all that are incensed against him will be ashamed!" **Isaiah 45.24**

"Every tongue that rises against you in judgment you will condemn for this is the inheritance of the servants of the Lord and their righteousness is of Me, says the Lord!" **Isaiah 54.17**

Don't be stopped by people speaking bad about you because of your faith... trust God and keep reaching!