

“Life-Changing Word”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Recently The Sojourner excitedly told me about a new revelation God had given him about a scripture that he had read, studied, and taught about many times over the past 46 years he’s been in ministry. He was thrilled with this new revelation. I was also affected by this new revelation, but not so excitedly, because it “hit a nerve” so to say. I could certainly see the truth in this new revelation but it addressed an area of my Christian walk that needed addressed, but that I did not want to address. The book of Hebrews tells us “. . . The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”^[a]

Our Heavenly Father loves us so much that he will bring up issues that we may not want him to, for our own good. A grade-school student may not want his/her parents to talk to them about a poor grade in math class, but the loving parents will do so because they want their child to do and be the best they can be—even in math class. The topic of math class may be a “sore topic”

Notes:

[a] Heb.
4:12 NIV

for a time, but once the child, through study, explanation, and practice, gains the necessary understanding, math will no longer be a cause for tension and the child will actually be glad his/her parents addressed this “sore topic.”

Likewise, sometimes when we “chew on” or meditate on the Word of God it may feel like it is burning us because the truth of the Word is revealing pain, inadequacies, or ignorance that we either did not know about, or had purposely hidden, because it seemed easier to hide them than to go through the pain of dealing with them. Please remember though, just like the child with math, once we consume the truth of the Word submit to it, and allow it to change our lives, we will thank God for bringing up the topic and helping us deal with it.

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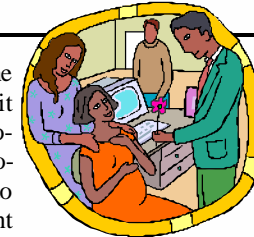
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Vol. 9 No. 39 October 10, 2010

...with The Sojourner

“Relationships” (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV)



When I was following the leading of the Holy Spirit by developing a Sojourner’s Fellowships brochure, I was preparing to write a doctrine statement when suddenly the Holy Spirit said, “No, don’t put up a doctrine page. The doctrines of men divide The Body. I will tell you what to put up about what those in Sojourner’s Fellowships are to do.”

Notes:
[a]
Matt.
18:23-35

Not Just Another Place

It was then I realized Sojourner’s Fellowships were not to be just another place to hear a message and go on about your life.

Be Merciful

How many of us have wanted mercy from others only to find that we have not shown mercy to others ourselves. Jesus told the parable of a rich man who forgave a large debt to a man. Later the same man having been forgiven of the large debt, would not forgive another man of a small debt to him. When the first man heard what happened when the second man was harsh with the third man, he was furious!^[a]

God was very clear to me, Believers were to be merciful.

9-39

Responsive

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature^[a] God, did not consider equality with God

Notes: something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature^[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[a]
Or in the
form of

[b]
Or the
form

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** (*Offerings are placed in the basket at this time.*)
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"Relationships" (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV)



SOJOURNERS...

Sojourner's... treat others well, act nobly toward them, and are merciful, sympathetic, tender, responsive, and compassionate even as God the Father is compassionate. (Jer. 23:2-3)



Believers are to be responsive when a need is seen. Unfortunately this response has often been only to the physical needs of people without addressing spiritual needs.

Spiritual needs are also to be seen to as well. Certainly, if a person is in such a physical state that their physical needs must first be addressed, that must be done! When a person is without the benefit of Christ, the Believer is required by Jesus, himself, to deliver the Gospel to such a person; to not do so would be to demonstrate a lack of obedience as well as to demonstrate a total lack of compassion for the deceived and lost individual.

Compassionate

Jesus came because of God's compassion toward mankind. How can we, being forgiven so much, do less toward others?

Our scripture in Paul's letter to the Philippians speaks of this in the first three verses:

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

Believers have been united with Christ for the purpose of function. This function is paramount!

Notes:

Murmuring & Disputing
Paul tells them later in Chapter 2:

¹⁴Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

Do you know this goes beyond relationships among Believers, or for that matter, with unbelievers! When we feel we can limit God in our lives regarding laying hands on the sick or telling the Gospel we are murmuring and disputing with God, himself! All our relationships must be carefully maintained!