Daily Devotion #68

Letting Go

***Matthew 5:39 (NASB)*** *39  "But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”*

It has been said that life would be wonderful if it were not for people. While we chuckle at that statement, there is truth to it that we all agree with, which is why we laugh when we hear it. If you have lived life at all, you have been with people or known people who cause you grief and sometimes for no apparent reason.

I remember many years ago I was working on a carburetor for a lawn mower, and I was having difficulty working through a problem. So I called the local hardware store to ask a question.  When I did the man on the other end of the line clearly made me feel about two inches tall because he was too busy to teach me how a carburetor worked. While I understand that he was busy and had many things to do, that conversation etched deeply into my mind.

It is difficult to understand the thinking processes of people and even understand why people believe what they do and where their thinking comes from. Mostly it’s from the events of their lives and by what or how they have been taught. Many people grow up in homes where there is no love or very little love. If there is love expressed, it is usually to gain the approval of someone or to make the one who is expressing the love feel better about themselves. Sin is the problem.

Our world is filled with broken people. People who don’t understand what it means to truly love and therefore forgive when wrongs are done to them. But our Lord wants His people to be just the opposite.

The Lord’s instruction is for us to let go of the hurts that people have done to us. As hard as that is, Kingdom people are those who remember that the world is broken by sin and therefore filled with broken souls who don’t know how to live with others. We are to be different.

In fact not only are we to “turn the other cheek” allowing others to do what they will to us, but we are to apply that to every area of life. If someone wants to take everything from you, allow them to do so. Jesus said, **Matthew 5:40 (NASB)** *40  "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.”* If someone thinks they should take from you what belongs to you, then you are to consider it all God’s and let them have it. Or even if someone infringes on your liberties, you are to oblige them. **Matthew 5:41 (NASB)** *41  "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.”* **Matthew 5:42 (NASB)** *42  "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”*

As difficult as this sounds, the Lord is calling for His people to surrender fully all of their personal rights. For those of us in America, we recoil at the thought. After all, this is America - the place of freedom to own and have and be someone. We the people have rights and privileges that come to us because we are Americans. But what we miss is that we are not first Americans, we are first Christians, followers of our Lord.

We belong to another Kingdom. This world is not our home to possess, but our ministry to give away. We are to reflect the heart of our King. He sacrificed Himself fully for us. He left His Kingdom for us. He gave His life for us.

The heart of a Kingdom citizen is to surrender our will, our fleshly desires so that the world may see we belong to another realm, another world, another society where love is expressed in letting go of all we want for the sake of our King. We are to be the models of heaven and let go of this world, holding tightly to the world where we are going.