Daily Devotion #186

**We Are Responsible for One Another**

**Genesis 4:9 (NASB)** *“Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ And he said, ‘I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?’"*

I have a friend who has a sister that cannot take care of herself. She is in her middle to late 50s and lives on her own, but she cannot deal with life without someone helping her. Just recently my friend sent me a video of her house before and after a professional cleaning crew came and put things in their proper place. It was an amazing transformation. But if it were not for my friend’s help and insistance, it would not have happened. It’s not only her house that my friend cares for. He also has to take care of all her finances as well as everything else that comes along. You may have figured this out by now, but she does have some issues with life that keep her from doing what would be considered normal for others.

When I listen to my friend talk about all he has to do and what he has done for his sister, I am amazed at his love and concern for her. I have often told him that he is a great brother, doing more than most people would even consider doing for someone. Granted she is his sister, but still, there is a lot of work in caring for her.

To care in that same way is the way you and I are to be with one another. We are to care for and help each other with whatever the need may be. Sadly, our sin often gets in the way and our “me first” attitude prevails. That was Cain’s problem. He knew what he did to his brother. He had murdered him in an act of hatred and selfishness. But when the Lord asked Cain about his brother, he denied knowing anything.

As you and I hear Cain’s question to God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”, the resolute answer should be immediately, “Yes”! Yes, we are our brothers’ keepers. You and I were made to be a family of God’s children. And in a healthy family, members of that family take care of one another - not only physically, but also emotionally and certainly spiritually.

We learn from the book of Acts, that the early church grew due to their great love and care for one another. (Acts 2-4) The church grew not as a result of programs and nice buildings and the latest and greatest music, but because of the love the community saw in the people of God for how they cared for one another. The word fellowship has the idea of partnership or sharing. And that’s how the people spent their time. They learned the Word of God and spent time in fellowship or caring for one another, and the world saw that and wanted to be a part of what was going on.

Listen to some things the Lord says about how we are to be keeping our brothers, as Cain put it. **Romans 12:10 (*NASB)*** *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”* **Galatians 5:13 (NASB)** *“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another*.” **Hebrews 3:13 (NASB)** *“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin*.” **1 Peter 4:9-10 (NASB)** *“Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*”

We are coming to two of the greatest times in the year, when we celebrate the joy of living in a land where we can worship freely, express our thankfulness, and remember the birth of our Lord. Although the rest of the world may not celebrate Thanksgiving as we know it, God’s people should be so thankful to Him for rescuing them from Satan that they desire more than anything to serve others in love and humility.

You may struggle at times with others, but do your best to remember that it is our responsibility to be our brothers’ keepers. Can you imagine where you would be if Jesus had not considered you worthy to be cared for? If He cared for us the way He did, shouldn’t we do what we can to care for others?