

CHIEF MINISTRIES

September 2012.

I lost a piece of my heart today and it feels so bad I want to tear the rest of it out of my chest. It makes me emit strange mournful noises into the atmosphere much like a lion who's lost a cub. I don't really know if I'll ever see this person again and it pains me as if I've sent a son off to war, not knowing if I'll see my young warrior again. I can only pray the new era of his walk will be filled with those who bequeath wisdom and insight to a new world, and that our paths may one day cross again. I've done nothing but want the best for my "chosen" son. Seeing the unlimited potential in someone is exciting, but attempting to get them to see it can be dangerous. Hateful people will come against you usually because of jealousy, wondering why you're wasting your time, effort, energy, money, whatever. It's because they don't see like you do; through the eyes of Jesus. Usually those people are also just wanting to be accepted as well, hoping to be a recipient of the blessing of favor. Look at the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1–10. Zacchaeus was a man who was also despised by his neighbors. He couldn't even go to church. He was a tax collector. He had heard about Jesus and how he was kind to the outcasts of society. He reflected on Jesus' teachings and I suppose he hoped God would accept him since everyone else rejected him, so he began to change his ways, repaying those he cheated. One day this Jesus was passing through the town and he just had to see this Jesus who had already begun to change Zacchaeus' life. And when Jesus saw him up in the tree, did He just look away and move on? No! He knew this was one of God's "chosen" and He said, "I'm going to your house today! Get down!" Sometimes just that one look or one statement can change our lives forever! Don't you want to change? Zacchaeus had to go to where Jesus was. In order to be seen! Get on your knees and cry out to be seen and heard! Psalms 12:5, *"because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan. I will now arise, says the Lord. I will place him in the safety for which he longs."* 13:5 *"but I have trusted in your steadfast love, my heart shall rejoice in your salvation 6. I will sing to the Lord for he has dealt bountifully with me."*

You may never know if the things you do will amount to anything in anyone's life. You can only hope that the recipient will see their need for change and act on that need themselves. Do you know how many times guys have come up to me asking me "why did you give that guy anything?" He doesn't deserve anything! Yeah, sometimes it does bother me and I'll say "I'm cutting that guy off.", But something deep down always says, no, you listen to Me, because not only will I use what you did to one day make a difference in that one's life, but I'm also changing you in the process. They say, "nice guys finish last", and sometimes I feel like I'm in last place. But didn't Jesus say in Matthew 19:30... *"The last shall be first!"* Jesus said in chapter 20:15, 16; *"Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity? So, the last will be first and the first last."*

I tell you this, if I listen to what other inmates tell me, I'd be out of there. The same can be said of some chaplains or pastors. There are so many armchair quarterbacks – guys that are experts of the game from their chair but never willing to get into the game. Oh, they can talk a good game, but their fruit is pretty scraggly looking and most of the time they don't want you looking at their fruit, they want you looking at them. Joe Super Christian. You can tell who they are by what proceeds out of their mouths when they get their spiritual feathers ruffled. I've literally had chaplains take the name of the Lord my God, in vain (notice I didn't say their God) after checking them about their own attitude and behavior. "What? How dare you? You're an inmate, an offender, a bigger sinner than I ever thought of being! You can't tell me how to live!" No, but the Bible does, yet so many are just willing to follow it to their own specifications rather than letting the Holy Spirit lead and guide them even through the gentle chiding of an inmate. Oh well, great is their reward on the first and the 15th of the month. There recently was one of those faith-

based dorms set up at a unit I was at. Are you serious? Yeah, I guess those guys involved have faith, but in what? By their mouths, actions and lifestyles certainly not in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It's like they are in a race to be able to theologically debate one another rather than see someone's life change. Unfortunately anything built on a crumbly foundation will fall. I wish them all the best, but until the enemy is pushed back by men coming together with HIS interest at heart rather than their own, there will be a continuance of darkness. Whatever happened to prayer? Let's go to 2nd Timothy 3:1-9:

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ^{v2} For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ^{v3} heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ^{v4} treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ^{v5} having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ^{v6} For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ^{v7} always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ^{v8} Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ^{v9} But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. (ESV)

Well if that doesn't sound like today what does? Does it sound like where you're at? So what do we do?

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ^{v11} my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra-- which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ^{v12} Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ^{v13} while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ^{v14} But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ^{v15} and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ^{v16} All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ^{v17} that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 10-17 ESV)

If I could go into detail of the last 28 months, I can assure you there's been some persecution, but this isn't about me. Have you been coasting along not making a difference, or have you? Only you really know!

I'm in the middle of a personal deliverance right now and I'm holding on to the word of God and moving on to the next thing God has for me. I can't look back, but will look ahead. I have fought a good fight, I have finished this course. I have kept the faith. I pray that all of you will find yourselves with something going on in your life spiritually. That you're pursuing God and running after Him. I wrote a song a few years back. That said, this:

"I'm chasing after God cause He's been chasing after me, just when I think that I can't catch Him, that's when He catches me. That's when He sets me free!"

Let Him really catch you...

Chief

P.S. Chief gives a special shout out and love to all the men at the Mark Stiles unit. "Hold on! Change is coming!" And lastly to my "son" LC - You get to be 1st!

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to www.chiefministries.com and www.chiefshouse.org

Christ's

Heart

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