

## Bermudian Church of the Brethren

**WEDNESDAY'S WORD** – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler

to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week

October 7, in the year of our Lord 2020 – #856

### The Lost Discipline of Burden Bearing

We all know **that person**. When you eat at a restaurant, they seem to know all the servers. They know them by name, their spouses, their significant others, their problems and their joys. These persons aren't "servers" they are friends, real people. These folks, when they say to someone, *"I'll pray for you,"* make a point to really pray for that person. You'll find these persons, when they stay in a hotel, having long conversations with the housekeeping staff. If they are in the hospital, they learn the names of the dining staff, housekeepers, x-ray technicians, nursing assistants ...real people ... that they care about. When shopping they'll ask the weary looking clerk, *"How are you doing today?"* ... and really, really care about the answer!

And when you are dealing with that 'hurt' or 'sadness' and are putting on your brave front to face people, they look right into your eyes and your soul, and say, *"How are you feeling, you seem a little down today?"*

We all know **that person**. And if you are **that person** ... well, God bless you!!!

Be clear, it's not an extrovert versus introvert thing, though extroverts may find this a bit easier. And it's not a natural thing. No one is born with this inclination. Our fallen human nature will always focus us first and foremost on ourselves. And our culture and modern advertising feeds that inner, fallen selfishness. *"You deserve the best."* *"You're worth it."* *"Only the best is good enough for you."* *"Watch out for Number One."*

No, this is a faith issue. It is a discipline that persons who are sincere in their desire to walk in Christ's ways will work to develop in their lives. It's a reflection of Christlikeness in the heart of a true follower of our Lord.

Do you remember Jesus meeting the woman at the well in Samaria? (John 4:1-42) This story is incredible for many reasons. **1)** It says ***"Now He had to go through Samaria."*** (v.4) The truth is He didn't need to go through Samaria! And most Jews didn't! The province of Samaria lay between Galilee & Judea and there was a long-standing hatred between these "cousins." There was a well-worn road between Galilee & Judea that went around Samaria, and was the accepted, but much longer way. Good Jews didn't walk on Samaritan soil! Yet Jesus did. He went out of His way not to avoid Samaria, but to meet this dear woman ... a Divine appointment. **2)** The woman came to the well at noon (v.6), in the hottest time of the day. This was not the normal time women would have come for their daily water. It reflects that she was seen as an outcast. **3)** Then we learn why. Five failed marriages, and now living with a man unmarried. (v.18) To her culture a cast away, no good, worthless, invisible. To Jesus ... a soul to love! **4)** Jesus not only speaks to her, but draws her in, cares about her, and in the end, she

becomes a powerful witness for Jesus bringing many from her Samaritan village to faith in Jesus as the Messiah! (v.39) Incredible!

So today I am inviting you ... to seek to become **that person** ...to hear the Scriptural Call to be a **burden bearer**. For many of us it may take a lot of work. Old habits die hard they say. It will take prayerfully asking the Lord to give you eyes that see as His. Not a server, but a person. Not a housekeeper, but a person. Not a clerk, but a person. It will take you opening your heart to allow the Holy Spirit to transform your mind. Begin today by just thinking ... is there someone I know that is going through a really difficult time right now? Is there someone who is struggling? Is there someone who is down? Write a little handwritten note. Make the call. Send the text, or email, or social media message. AND ... pause to pray for them. If you are having a conversation with a friend or family member today ... for heaven's sake put down your phone! ... clear your mind of distraction, look into their eyes and really, really hear ... the spoken and the unspoken! Don't say, "How are you doing?," unless you really want to know! Smile at the clerk, even if he's rude or makes a mistake. Tip the server generously. Ask Christ to help you to be **that person** ... whom we all appreciate when they touch our lives!

***"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."***

Galatians 6:2 NKJV

***"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*** Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

Asking the Lord to help me be **that person**!  
Blessings! Pastor Larry <><