

Learn From Jesus to Give Love To Others

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How good a thing it is to have someone who cares. As we increasingly live in our world of crowded isolation, experiencing the love of someone who truly cares is like finding a pearl of greatest price. Everyone, in one way or another, cares for themselves. And everyone wants to know someone who truly cares for them, but most people struggle to know even a few people in their lives who are genuinely concerned for their welfare.

Even the Apostle Paul admitted to the rarity of this sort of person. Writing to the Christians in Philippi, he wrote these words: “For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.”

He was writing about Timothy, probably his closest companion and friend. Paul had the joy of watching Timothy express in various ways a genuine concern for the welfare of the Philippian Christians.

None of us has the power to control whether another will care for us. It is given as a gift. But we all can strive to be someone who truly cares for someone near us. In fact, Paul had just told the Philippians to do that very thing, “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others,” Philippians 2:4.

I was moved to write this article because of a story I heard about last night in our home Bible study as we were sharing prayer requests with one another. One man in our living room shared a report of praise. He was giving thanks to God for answering a difficult prayer that he had requested from the week before. His grandmother was succumbing to the last stages of Alzheimer’s. He had requested prayer for his dad as he struggled to know how to love his mom. She no longer even recognized him as her son. How painful his visits to her must be. And yet, the man reported that his dad had found joy in spending time with his mom. There was happiness in his heart as he provided her with simple joys. Why? Because he genuinely cared for her.

I listened and thought to myself what a precious gift that this man was giving, not only to his mother, but also as an example to his children.

From where does this sort of genuine concern come? Many may think that it is something that originates from something within us. I beg to differ. The Bible says that this sort of love originates in the very heart of God and must first flow into us from God if it is ever to flow out of us to others.

I am not saying that only Christians have the capacity to love, or even that all those that are Christians consistently give this sort of love. I am only saying that without the Christian God whose very character is one of love, there would be no such genuine acts of love occurring in our world. And when it comes to experiencing the purest form

genuine concern, it can only be found in Jesus Christ. Our attempts at having a genuine concern for others are dim reflections of his bright and shining expression of love.

How difficult is it to care for someone who has hurt you deeply? That is exactly what Jesus has done. He genuinely cared for those who mocked and scorned him. He was willing to bear in himself their sins, selfishness, even their hatred.

It is a rare thing find someone who genuinely cares for another. But it is a divine thing to find someone who genuinely cares for those who have hated him. This is what we have in Jesus.

If you are reading this article and have experienced in your heart the love of Jesus towards you, make it your ambition to be someone who is genuinely concerned for the welfare of another.

If you are reading this and have never known the love of God towards you, do not despair. You are like one living beneath the clouds wondering if the sun exists. I assure you it does. Take the time to pick up your Bible and begin reading the Gospel of Mark. Read it all the way through. It won't take you more time than it takes to watch a movie, or maybe two. And on those pages you will find the greatest expression of love the world has ever known – the pearl of greatest price. Jesus – truly there is no one like him, someone who has a genuine concern for your welfare.