

**FRIDAY, October 30, 2009:**

*“Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. 20 And Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good endowment; **now my husband will dwell with me**, because I have borne him six sons.” (Gen. 30:19-20)*

I don't know how much you know about the family life of Jacob, but trust me, it was a mess. Jacob's family was rift with mistrust, competition, betrayal, jealousy, and about every other negative characteristic known.

All the while, Jacob was making loads of money and finding his place in life. But what the people in his life really wanted was him. If you were to take the time to read the entire account of Jacob's life you would discover that underlying much of the troubles that Jacob's family went through was a simple desire to get Jacob's love and affirmation. In other words, time together brings more happiness and fulfillment than all the “stuff” that life can bring.

Today begins the weekend. Before finalizing your plans, why not make a gut check and examine what you're planning to do.

This weekend there will be men and women who rush right out of the lives of their dearly loved ones, all in an effort to “recoup” from a long hard week and try to squeeze a little happiness out of the weekend. Many will by-pass worship this Sunday as well. But the tragedy is that they will be cutting themselves off from the real source of happiness and joy – spending time with those they love.

My dear friend, think twice before making that mistake.

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 7:5**

**SATURDAY, October 31, 2009:**

Proverbs 12:18 *There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.*

Probably one of the most neglected roles we have is our role as a communicator. Everyone is a communicator, not just public speakers. And the sad truth is that there are a lot of angry, sullen communicators out there that fling words that cut and slash instead of promote health.

However, being a communicator that promotes health does not mean that our words will never be sharp. Sometimes the truth truly does hurt but it is still needed.

Sharp words that promote healing are like a scalpel instead of a sword. A sword is an instrument of death; a scalpel is an instrument of healing.

Hopefully on this Saturday, you have a little more time for reflection than usual. Since you cannot escape the reality that you are a communicator and thus your words do matter, why not take an inventory of your words. How are you doing? Have your words been promoting health or hurt? Notice, I didn't ask you to consider what others have been saying, that is between them and God, but you can control the words you speak and that is where healing can start.

**SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 16:23-24**



**Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of October 25, 2009*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

**Personal Notes:**

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**MONDAY, October 26, 2009:**

Genesis 37:13 *"So he said..."Here I am."*

Anyone who has a basic knowledge of the Bible has heard of Joseph. His story is famous. He started out as the favorite son, was sold into slavery by his resentful brothers, ended up in prison through no fault of his own and eventually became the Prime Minister for the Pharaoh (king).

It sounds so simple and so easy reading it in one paragraph. But the truth of the matter is that Joseph's journey to the top was a long and difficult road of danger, hardship and lonely nights.

But if you're looking for something to help you on your own journey I think today's verse gives us an early indication of the secret to Joseph's success. The background for today's Bible verse is in Joseph's early days; the "favorite son" state. As you probably know, during this time he had a lot of rough edges that had to be knocked off, but one thing that is revealed here and which stayed with Joseph throughout his life was that Joseph was willing, early on, to do what was asked of him.

Dreams are great, being the favorite son can open doors; but at the end of the day, the people who succeed do what is required at the time. They understand that availability is as important as capability. There are many people who are capable of doing great things, but they're not willing to be available. They are waiting for the "big opportunities." They're looking for the big chance, the glamorous job, the one that pays the big bucks.

But the ones that truly win in life understand that you never get past the need to be available. They understand that you never get so high in life that you are exempt from serving and doing the small things.

As you start another week, let me remind you again, just being available will keep you on the road to success. Don't despair; keep at it...your day will come.

**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 14:3**

**TUESDAY, October 27, 2009:**

*"Honesty without kindness is like surgery without anesthesia."*

\_Paul Coleman

Some people see everything in black and white. I'm asking you to color everything with a little kindness. In other words, don't just do right, do right the right way.

One of my dad's favorite sayings is, "You can be right, but dead right." He'd quote this little quip back in the days when I was learning to drive. I'd complain that someone cut me off when I had the right away. Or he'd remind me to look both ways even though the green light was in my favor. He would remind me that just because I had the right-a-way, didn't mean that I had the right to not consider the consequences of my actions.

This lesson goes far beyond driving. Today let me encourage you to practice kindness.

It has been said that the difference between a hunter and a sportsman is that the hunter regrets the killing blow.

Doing right sometimes requires tough actions, but oh God, please let us do right kindly!

**SCRIPTURE: Eph. 4:32**

**WEDNESDAY, October 28, 2009:**

*"Is it not odd that the world's most glaring light should issue from a tomb?"* \_Calvin Miller, Once Upon a Tree

Here it is the middle of the week and I thought you might need a little encouragement. You may fully understand the "tomb" part of the above quotation. Maybe you're living/working in a dark and even depressing situation. In no way do I want to minimize the challenges you are facing; but don't forget, even in the darkest night, toughest spot and most lonely hour, "the glaring light."

The Easter message is not just a once-a-year deal; it is an everyday message of hope that is for you **today**.

You may be so dreading this day that it was hard to even get out of bed and put your feet on the floor. My dear friend, press on, do not lose hope; look for the Light in your situation. He is there and He is reminding you that better days are ahead.

The grave of Christ's  
resplendent light-  
Where Easter came to spend  
the night  
Has left us squinting at the sight  
To shade our eyes against  
such light  
And cry He is alive and  
so are we!  
Hallelujah!

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:9**

**THURSDAY, October 29, 2009:**

Recently I was struck by the contrast between the two following quotations:

- *"The lack of money is the root of all evil."* \_Mark Twain
- *"It's a disgrace to die rich."* \_Andrew Carnegie

What a difference. History tells us that Mark Twain died a bitter old man, leaving a legacy of famous literature that is known for its sarcasm and irreverence.

History also records that Andrew Carnegie became one of the greatest philanthropist the world has ever had, spending the last decades of his life endowing hospitals, orphanages, colleges and many other worthy causes, giving away his fortune to help alleviate the suffering and misery of millions of people, even to this day.

Today or tomorrow is payday for most companies. Let today's devotional be a reminder that money must never be the objective. To really serve its purpose, it must always be the by-product of a life well lived.

Before depositing your check this week, take a moment and reflect on what it means to you. Why do you work? It's got to be for something more important than money if you ever hope to have a fulfilling and joyful life.

**SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 5:10**