

Pay it Forward...As Jesus continues teaching his Apostles and disciplesWe must remember who they are presently in their walk with Jesus....they are a beginning group of disciples with little education in Theology, and not highly educated period, no power in the government, whose circle of colleagues did not include the religious leaders, most of them working class. ... But their call and influence will greatly increase, as they will become the Patriarchs of the Faith following Jesus, and heroes of the faith. They will also grow in notoriety with the religious and government leaders. But no matter what Jesus is explaining to them the the Kingdom way...which is the more difficult path...The path of paying it forward... exemplified in this verse

Luke 6:31 ***Do to others as you would like them to do to you.***

- **We don't reciprocate in kind but in kindness...**
- **They/we are not only to give love for love, and good for good, we are to love our enemies, and to return good for evil.**
- **God is merciful because it is God's nature to overflow in acts of loving kindness. We imitate God to whom we belong**
- **It is all about paying it forward...He goes on to tell them what this looks like...**

NLT Luke 6:37 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

The word "judge" refers to pronouncing a final judgment, especially about somebody's moral or personal behavior and character....

Does this mean we are *never* to judge? Certainly not, for Jesus also said:

NLT John 7: 24 **Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly**
Correct judgment must be based on conclusive evidence. We may not

judge on the basis of appearance, personal opinions or unsubstantiated suspicions.

We are forbidden to judge pronounce a final verdict to condemn anyone as we are not qualified to do so...as only God knows everything about everyone...This mainly has to do with relationships we are in.

1 Cor.4: 5 So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.

- **We will not Judge as it will come back to us in the same way ...in other words on the gallows you have built for others you might just hang yourself.**
- **We will give all that to God as he will judge objectively and mercifully.**
- **Our mandate is to forgive... and in our hearts drop the case...**
- **Something crazy happens when you don't pronounce final judgment on someone.. People actually change faster and more willingly when we accept them as worthwhile, even when their behavior is bad.** It does not mean we accept their behavior with no consequences...but that we believe they are still made in the image of God. The same is true for ourselves.
- People feel the impact of being accepted.
- **When you understand that judging others does very little to change them, your tactics change...How?**
- **You realize Everyone with whom you come in contact is motivated to actions because of their own struggles, weaknesses, setbacks, relapses, crises, and obstacles...all of which can lead to horrible decisions...**

- This is the reality of everyone's humanity and all of us need time, effort, forgiveness and energy to change and grow.
- And all of us experience some resistance to altering long standing, habitual ways of acting, reacting, sinning and believing and so will others.
- Si I do my self and others a great act of love to forgive ...It is in our own best interest...and the pating forward is I will receive forgiveness in my time of need..leaving Judgment to God!
- Another pay it forward...

Luke 6: 38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

- Jesus fully endorses the idea that God blesses those who bless othersafter they bless others....
- This is Jesus great plan to change how people treat one another... you give first and receive it back later directly from our Father...
- These pay it forward commands of God call for **aggressive Christian action**. This is not for the faint of will!!
- The measure you use in each of these will be measured back to you proportionally Give love receive love, give help Receive Help, give financially generously , receive generously, forgive be forgiven, give mercy receive mercy. Give patience receive patience...this in itself is a great reward!!
- If we don't were no better than a blind person leading a blind person... NLT LK 6:39 Then Jesus gave the following illustration: "Can one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch?"

- Treat others “as you are first treated”... is what ordinary people living ordinary lives do! This is absolute blindness from Jesus perspective... **fall in a ditch... You both get wrecked**
- Jesus followers are to live supernatural lives, our eyes have become opened to see what works... These commands of God call again for intentional **aggressive Christian action.**
- Jesus followers engage in paying it forward... because God will always replenish the supply as it is expended!

The students who practice this grow in wisdom and become wise like their teacher

Luke 6:40 A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

- **This is really the central point of Jesus' teaching the wisdom of his kingdom.**
- we are children of the light, we don't live in darkness anymore ...we perceive life differently...so we live differently..

2) Now he shifts gears and teaches them how to deal with the most difficult person they know... Themselves!!!

*NLT LK 6:41 “And why worry about **a speck** in your friend’s eye when you have **a log** in your own? ⁴² How can you think of saying, ‘Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.*

I am sure this image came from Jesus' personal experience as a carpenter who worked with wood.

SAWDUST He is talking about that speck of sawdust that gets into your eye. If you have ever had sawdust get into your eye, it hurts doesn't it?

- In fact, what is the first thing that you do when you get something like that in your eye? You close your eye, it is instinctive...You close your eye and it tears up to try to dislodge that speck of sawdust. And if you try to open the eye that has sawdust in it, how well do you see? first off it is hard to open your ...everything is blurry from the tears. **we often need someone to help us get it out...but they need to be gentle...**

PLANK If a plank of wood were to be embedded in the eye...one would be rendered at the least blind incapable of seeing at all, and there is the possibility of collateral damage even possible brain damage ...this person is clearly not in a position to remove a speck of sawdust merely an irritant in someone else's eye...

- Now what is this plank? It is the truth we don't want to look at about ourselves...or worse deny it is even there!!
- But, if we are to grow as Christians into the place God wants us to be, we must look at it.
- So Jesus assumes that 1) as we are aware of other people's issues (specks) and 2) we are also aware of our issues (planks)... because it is impossible to have a plank in your eye and not know it!
- Jesus says the plank is obvious, **because it is impossible to unaware of a plank in your own eye. We can** intentionally overlook it but it damages us and everyone close enough to us...(swing plank)
- So Jesus is saying this....you are the most difficult person I know to carry out what he is teaching and so am I .
- **It is so much easier to identify others who are difficult, then to address why am I so difficult.**
- **You may be saying here yes I was difficult but Jesus saved me, and since then I am not that difficult.**

- **Well that is the first indicator of a difficult person they think they are not!**
- **let me ask you some questions to help us identify whether or not you are a difficult person. Are you a Procrastinator that alone makes you a difficult person to be in relationship with. Are you a people pleaser which means you regularly overextend yourself, then build resentments about it... you are a difficult person.**
- **Are you a perfectionist? you are a difficult person to work with and live with. Are you a worrier? Are you really fearful? Are you jealous or very insecure? Do you stress out a lot? are you an idealist? Do you have a very Black and white perspective on life? Yes? you are a difficult person to enjoy life with.**
- **Do you have a hard time admitting when your wrong? Are you defensive? are you easily angered? Do you go to the negative about everything or most things?**
- **Are you a controller? Do you isolate? Do you have the tendency to think you know the best way? Do you have a hard time playing well with others? Judge much? Guess what? you're a difficult person**
- **Are you an addict? an alcoholic? Have a hard time forgiving? Hold onto resentments? Slander and gossip? any and all of those character traits make you a difficult person...**

When we realize.. I am a difficult person too...and Understand the gravity of my own sin and the commonality of all our sins. I can start working to remove and recover from the plank in my eye... I become less preoccupied with other people's sawdust...

A person under the master technician Jesus will only challenge another person, to take the speck out of their eye, out of a deep sense

of humility, and gentleness and only when called to do so by the Holy Spirit. For they know the difficulty of keeping objects out of their own eyes!

What is clear from the context of the sermon on the mount is that Jesus was talking about people making personal judgments against others, without checking their own actions and motives...acting as God rather than someone who also struggles with failure...

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- You do good things for people *regardless* of whether they deserve it or not...we do good things because that is what God does..

Luke 6:35.....because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

- God sheds grace on the world, gives gifts richly and freely to the creatures *regardless* of the fact of whether we can repay God.
- God is merciful because it is God's nature to overflow in acts of loving kindness.
- I know that I am still blind to many of my own faults, because I keep on discovering more faults in me that were there all along.

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- Jesus considers this to be living blind...
- **There is a conflict between His will and our natural desires and what makes sense to him and what makes sense to us. operating in our natural desires is the blind leading the blind**
 - **The problem is we usually lie to ourselves and call their failings planks and our failings specks!!**
 - The truth Jesus is saying is this...it is a whole lot more labor intensive dealings with our selves then others and if we are not willing to do the hard work on us... ..we are in no condition to do lessor work on others...
- **in fact he calls it hypocritical...or liars...**
- **in verse 41 Jesus says the plank is known to be there by the person but they pay no attention to it.....in verse 42 he says the plank is intentionally overlooked...why intentionally? because it is impossible to unaware of a plank in you own eye.**
- **something is out of place in the operating system...we are lying to ourselves... you have no credibility to help others when you do not help yourself...**
- **People know what they need to change or that something is missing is in their lives... the fact that billions is spent each year on personal**

improvement products...books, downloads, seminars and conferences is testimony to this knowledge.....

- **But interestingly...Research has shown...that 85% of people who purchase personal improvement books never finish them. The rate of people who purchase gym memberships and not use them is even higher... There information available today on relationships than ever before..yet the divorce rates hover around 50%. with all the information about healthy eating...we are one of the most obese nations in the world. and the list goes on..and on**
- **It is apparent...Recognizing and identifying and even learning about our issues (the plank in our eyes) are easy ...but working to remove and recover fom the plank is difficult...**
- **There is nothing which so hinders a person from heart-searching self-examination, nothing which so hardens him in self-complacent pride, as the habit of being preoccupied with other peoples sawdust...**
- **A person under the master technician Jesus will only challenge another person, will only seek to take the speck out of their eye, out a deep sense of humility, and only when called to do so by the Holy Spirit. For they know the difficulty of keeping objects out of their own eyes!**
- **I know that I am still blind to many of my own faults, because I keep on discovering more faults in me that were there all along.**
- Here it is, then. While ordinary men live ordinary lives, Jesus followers are to live supernatural lives. While ordinary men love those who love them, Jesus followers are to love those who hate them. And they can do so because they look to God for their reward, not to men.

- Jesus followers can be taken advantage of by men because God is the one who blesses and rewards them. Jesus followers can engage in a kind of “deficit spending” pay it forward...of love because God will always replenish the supply.

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Why are the disciples to act like this? Because it is the character of Jesus *Hebrews 12:2* We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of **the joy awaiting him, he **endured** the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he **endured** from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up.**

- **he endured for love that awaited him...in saving humanity...and the joy it would bring him...**
- **that is what God does...so his children ought..we practice kindness!! to those who owe us.....are in debt to us**
- **We will be merciful...not giving a person (enemy) what they deserve...but what they don't deserve!**
- **Because : This reflects God and He will repay your acts of mercy**

And God will reward us greatly !!! for behaving well! as obedient children of God and servants of the Kingdom! not disobedient Children and disobedient servants

But wait there's more

the word "judgmental" refers to making a final judgment, especially about somebody's moral or personal behavior and character.... People tend to get upset about others who hold accountable their own personal behavior.

Does this mean we are *never* to judge? Certainly not, for Jesus also said:

John 7:24"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment"

- **Righteous judgment must be based on conclusive evidence. We may not judge on the basis of appearance, personal opinions or unsubstantiated suspicions.**

We are commanded to exercise *righteous* judgment. We are forbidden to judge when we are not qualified to do so. And that is to pronounce a final verdict to condemn anyone...

1 Cor.4:5 Therefore **judge** nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Jesus tells us not to do that? But What about making general (non-personal) statements about what is right or wrong? Of course...

This means we are not to judge according to appearance (John 7:24). This means that we may not judge on the basis of insufficient, superficial information. Outward appearance is often deceptive.

1Ti 5:24 The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. ²⁵ In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.

- "Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.
- Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden"

What is clear from the context of the sermon on the mount is that Jesus was talking about people making *personal* judgments against others, without checking their own actions and motives...acting as God rather than someone who also struggles with failure...

You see love is demonstrated to those that hurt us...by first not condemning them and second by forgiving them and third to continue to give to them...what are we to give??? Love...demonstrated as mercy and grace...

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³⁸ Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

³⁹ Then Jesus gave the following illustration: “Can one blind person lead another? Won’t they both fall into a ditch? ⁴⁰ Students[Ⓜ] are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.

⁴¹ “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye[Ⓜ] when you have a log in your own? ⁴² How can you think of saying, ‘Friend,[Ⓜ] let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

*****This teaching was put to the test by the Religious leaders about a year or more later..when Jesus was at the Temple in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles...celebrating and commemorating the journey of the Israelites**

The Woman Caught In Adultery It was the Feast of Tabernacles. In the time of Jesus, every good Jewish man and woman went to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast, which commemorates the time their ancestors had lived in tents as they wandered in the

wilderness. Agriculturally, *Sukkot* (as it is also called) is a harvest festival, sometimes referred to as the Festival of Ingathering.

Just before the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall of the year before His crucifixion, Jesus was laying low when it came to Judea because of those who were already wishing Him dead. the Feast of Tabernacles rolled around, He quietly returned to Jerusalem.

Once there, Jesus remained in the shadows, not making much of a fuss so as not to cause any problems or arouse any disturbances. But halfway through the week-long celebration, He went into the temple and began to teach. The people were impressed; the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees were incensed.

They decided to trick the Lord. Somehow (and I often wonder *how*) they knew of a woman who was — at that very moment — committing the act of adultery. The scripture reads:

In the story of the woman caught in adultery, John indicates that the question of the Pharisees was a "trap".

John 8:2-6 ² *At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.* ³ *The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery..... They made her stand before the group* ⁴ *and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.* ⁵ *In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"* ⁶ *They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.*

- How was this supposed to "test" Jesus? What specifically was the trap they were trying to get Jesus to fall into? At this time in history Israel was under the rule of the Romans. The Jewish law required that a couple caught in adultery were to be stoned to death.
- The pitiless accusers of the woman, citing the law of Moses, provoke Jesus - they call him "Teacher" (Didáskale) -, asking him whether it would be right to stone her.

Leviticus 20:10 "If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.

- They were aware of his preaching his mercy, forgiveness and his love for sinners and were curious to see how he would manage in such a case which, according to Mosaic law, was crystal clear.
- Note that the man involved in the adultery was not recorded as being brought to Jesus, only the woman. this should free her...and it would implicate the religious leaders, making them participants in this sin...
- none the less, If he absolves the woman caught in flagrant adultery, it will be said

- that he He was flagrantly disregarding the law of Moses;
- But if he condemns her, it will be said that he is inconsistent with his message of mercy towards sinners...
 - Yet... Christ himself had been teaching the people that whoever loves God will obey God. so prove your obedience...
 - then we have the Roman problem...under Roman law a person could only be put to death by a Roman judge, otherwise it was murder.
 - Christ did not have the "authority" as a man under Roman law to sentence anybody to death.
 - Thus, if Christ had answered that the woman was to be stoned He would have been breaking the Roman law.
 - **They wanted to get Jesus in trouble with them (disregarding Moses' Law) or with the Roman government -- or both, if possible. and being a hypocrite and Blasphemer.. Whichever action he chose, in the Pharisees' minds, would enable them to accuse him of doing wrong.**
 - Rather than speak His answer, Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground, using his finger.

*John 8:6....But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground (dust) with his finger.
 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them,*

- Jesus stooped down to the ground, smoothed out the dust with the palm of His hand, and began to write. What did the Lord write in the dust?
- John who was present maintains silence concerning this and does not write of it. Was it too repulsive and vile to be recorded? However, we do have an early church tradition, and it is descriptive.
- Which states The Lord wrote something unexpected and startling for the elders, the accusers of the sinful woman.
- **With His finger He disclosed their secret iniquities. For these pointers-out of the sins of others were experts in concealing their own grievous sins.**
- But it is pointless to try to hide anything from the eyes of One Who sees all.
- they were names were written and their secrets disclosed "M (eshulam) has stolen treasures from the temple," wrote the Lord's finger in the dust."A (sher) has committed adultery with his brother's wife; "S (halum) has committed perjury "E (led) has struck his own father; "J (oel) has secretly worshipped idols." this one was himself with prostitutes..and on ..
- And so one statement after another was written in the dust by the awesome finger of the righteous Judge.

- Notice... that Jesus showed them far more mercy than they gave this women... Christ did not want their sins to be made known to everyone. That which is dirty was written only in dirt.
- Had He desired, He would have announced them before all the people, and would have accused them and pronounce they also should be stoned to death, in accordance with the law.
- When he was done writing ...he stood up...and said

⁷ *“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”*

- The phrase ‘without sin’ is regularly misunderstood. It does not mean ‘not having any sin in one’s life whatsoever’. If this was the case, why would God have given his people the law in the first place? it is not being sin less..
- ‘without sin’ is defined biblically in the law as ‘being free from the same sin that you are judging the other person for.’

- This the essence of the values of the Kingdom of God to which he invites disciples to enter....Get this and you get the doctrine of the Bible...



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NIVGal 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be **tempted**. ² Carry each other’s **burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load.

*GAL 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him **gently**. But watch yourself, or you also may be **tempted**. ² Carry each other’s **burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, ⁵ for each one should carry his own load.*

- Caught ...tangled in sin...restore gently...remove the net gently
- Tempted...do not put yourself in compromising situations
- Help with each others burdens...
- You are not the hero...I’m something...I am no thing...just of service...
- Get to the place of carrying your own burden...

- Taking your burden from one to another...someone carried until they cannot anymore...now I find someone else...
- If they are not learning and being strengthened to carry their own burden ...something is wrong....

How do I carry my own burden...when I am tempted to just quit...I get proactive...

I open my life to others and discover that whatever I am going through has been gone through before...and not only survived...but people have become better, stronger...they have become overcomers...they have persevered and conquered...temptations.

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Matthew 7:1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

- notice plank and saw dust are the same thing...just in different size... measurement...
- take out that which is similar in you...and you will know how to judge correctly by experience ...how to help someone in a similar sin...
- Mercy comes when we take out the plank...do the work of removing that which blinds us..our sin...we then know how hard and troubling and prone to doing it again we are...
- which creates in us empathy for and mercy toward those who struggle similarly..

this is exactly what the Pharisees and teachers lacked...they thought they were different ...Jesus corrected that...

- When they bent over and read what he wrote, And to whom those words referred, there must have been inexpressible horror.
- **They trembled from fright, and dared not look one another in the eye. They gave no further thought to the sinful woman.**
- They thought only of themselves and of their own deaths, which was written in the dust. Not a single tongue was able to move, to pronounce that troublesome and evil question...they were now silent... The Lord wanted only to correct them, to make them think of themselves and their own sins.

- **What did he write...this time..it is said he wrote ...the words from the Prophet Jeremiah..**

Jer 17:13 LORD, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of living water.

- **they understood...if they turn away from the Lord...they names and sins will remain written in the dirt...as testimony against them...**
- **Another reason why the Lord wrote on the ground is even greater and more wonderful. That which is written in the dust is easily erased and removed.**

Your life will always express the result of our dominant thoughts regarding any issue!

The truth moves us to take proper action...

Jesus put it this way... *sums up the lies we tell ourselves in this way..*

We become sensitive to spiritual forces that are always present and to answers and insights that free us from bondage.

If you have a challenge in your life now or if you are experiencing despair, first entertain the possibility that there is an answer. Allow yourself to think that this answer is so grand and wonderful that it is beyond human comprehension. Only a divine mind could reveal the next step. As you do this, you will feel the birth of hope. Hold to the idea that there is an answer, and hope will keep you going.

The next step is an act of faith. Cast aside any preconceived ideas you have about the way things must be. Remember, the answer is so grand that it is beyond your imagining. Spend some time each day in silent reflection and inner listening because spiritual forces tend to gather when hope is born, and we let go of having it our way. As you move through your daily activities, be sensitive to what you see and hear because answers will come in ways you have not known before. Notice that a peace accompanies you through the day. This is a sign that the bridge is forming. One day soon, the answer will come, but your joy will be more than the fact that you know what to do; rejoice that you have been transformed.

the solution...keep your eyes on Jesus

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Jesus as a practice...generally speaking chooses people who are:

- Not wise by human standards... ...in other words lacking skills, education, basically do not excel in the system...in the world system
- Nor are they... influential...in other words unimportant...in the world system
- or of noble birth...in others words ordinary
- Weak by nature...fragile in a sense...outsiders...not powerful
- Lowly common...anonymous
- And the despised...people the world does not look up to but down at...
- Generally speaking these are the people Jesus calls...
- What kind of a world changing overcome the enemy strategy is that?
- Terrible if you're depending on human skills and wisdom...but outstanding if you're depending on God's skill and wisdom....why?
- First of all no one will be able to boast about themselves...which is a great temptation for all men...but it will be obvious ...that the glory goes to God when one sees the changes in the character and lifestyle of the people he uses....which becomes attractive to the world...they think if God can help them there is hope for me!!

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- **They've had heartache, trouble and disappointment, and sometimes make horrible decisions, ...but they've held on to faith through it all.**

They know what it's like...

- **To begin as a failure... and fail along the journey**
- **To follow all the rules for "success", but not reach it**
- **To be told they're not trying, when they're working themselves numb**
- **To know doubt, but overcome it**
- **To be hurt, but forgive**
- **To make huge mistakes, but not give up...**
- **To fall down, but always, Always, ALWAYS get up**

@@@ *COL 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

- You see when we are in a family we have to learn to bear with one another...bearing with one another has to do with...
- Beign patient with one another's weaknesses...
- Not one of us is perfect and all of us fail particularly in human relationships...
- How easy is it to expect more from other Christians then we expect from ourselves.

This has particular relevance to living as a family of God.

- In the family setting we get to know others like in no other social unit..
- We live together day after day, week after week, year after year
- As members of a family we get to see each other at our best and at our worst both as parents and as children.
- And sometimes parents expect more from their children than they do from themselves
- And children usually expect more from their parents and other adults than they do from themselves...
- And together this often erupts into anything but forbearance and forgiveness with one another...

The same is often true in the family of God...

- In a church when we get to know one another as we should...we also get to know one another's idiosyncrasies...
- We place higher expectancies on others than we do ourselves...getting angry and resentful when they don't measure up to our expectations...but hey don't judge me!!!
- The older I am in Christ...the higher my expectations ought to be for myself and lower for others...or as Jesus would say...

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MT 7:3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Some Christians carry grudges anger and resentment against others for years ...how miserable...and you how people like to hang around bitter and resentful people...

- how out do character should this be for a believer in Jesus
- and how ungrateful for a Christian to hold a grudge against another Christian...when Christ has canceled our own debt of sin..

we need to bear with each other and practice forgiveness with others so that we may have the capacity to emotionally connect and love those God has place in our lives.

By this we demonstrate that we are his disciples.