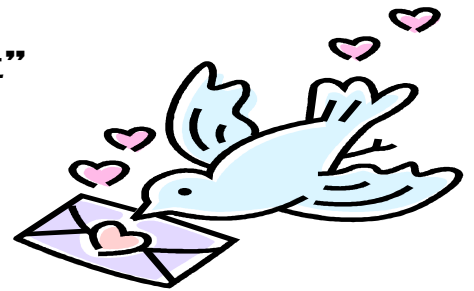




“A Word of Encouragement”

September 2007

“THE HEART OF JESUS”



Last year there was a WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT called, “*Patterns*” in which we examined some of the patterns of the life of Jesus. Two key Scriptures declared, “*that you should follow in His steps*” (1 Peter 2:21 NIV) and “*whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did*” (1 John 2:6 NIV). Walking in His steps, following His example is what we do. Behind all that is the heart. He is a God of hearts! We can do many things without our heart being in them, or we can experience the heart of Jesus within us and be blessed and increased as He is revealed in and through us! The Father expressed His heart by sending Jesus to us. The God who gives and gives and gives again made a way for us where there was no way.

There is an old song that says, “You gotta have heart – miles and miles and miles of heart!” (Van Buren-Bermy). “*Aren’t you glad I’m not singing it to you?*”

God had miles and miles of heart – all the way from heaven to earth – loving us, desiring us, needing us to complete His heart of love – the solution was to send His Son.

We have walked “miles” of trials, heartaches, and disappointments, but we have stood (and still stand) in the faith and love of God. May God Himself commend you in these days and may you know how pleased He is.

Jesus had much time with the Father – communion, fellowship and prayer. He needed and desired that time – and out of it came the Father’s heart, desire, will and purpose! Jesus lived a balanced life – a life ordered and directed, a life full and satisfied – he lived beyond Himself. Although there were many demands placed on Him, I believe He always walked in peace, never anxious or hurried and enjoyed the life and mission His Father had given Him, moment by moment – day by day. The focus of His life was His relationship with His Father – as with Him – so with us. First things always first He was in union with the Father and abided in Him. Jesus said, “*My food (nourishment) is to do the will (pleasure) of Him who sent Me and to accomplish and completely finish His work.*” (John 4:34 AMP) “*...the Son is able to do nothing of Himself (of His own accord); but He is able to do only what He sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father does is what the Son does in the same way (in His turn)*” (John 5:19 AMP). “*I do not seek or consult My own will (I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose) but only the will and pleasure of the Father who sent me.*” (John 5:30 AMP). Knowing the Father’s will – He did it. Always with people, always loving people.

He made Himself known to people and openly declared who He was. *“The Spirit of the Lord (is) upon me, because He has anointed me (the Anointed One, the Messiah) to preach the Good News (the Gospel) to the poor; He had sent me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed (who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity), to proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord (the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound)” (Luke 4:18, 19 AMP).* Do we see the heart of God here? The strong desire to see people brought from where they are to the LIFE God has for them – whole, full, blessed and then passed on! Jesus didn’t just have the provision – He was the provision! Having His heart – may we grow in God to be the same.

Jesus heart was and is a heart of compassion. When people were hungry, sick, or suffering in any way the word declares He was moved with compassion. One definition of compassion is “inclined to show mercy; merciful; having a heart that is tender, and easily moved by the distresses, sufferings, wants and infirmities of others” (Amer. Dictionary of The English Language, Noah Webster 1828). We do have a High Priest who is touched with the feelings of our infirmities and weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). He knows the WHY behind the WHAT. We do have His Heart of compassion – and it is up to us whether we open or close it. (1 John 3:17 AMP)

Jesus went about doing good (Acts 10:38). That goodness was always directed toward people in teaching, preaching, and healing. He was always approachable, always reachable. People were His focus, and He had excellent “people skills.” He walked in “reciprocal response” (the way people treat us is usually a direct result of how we treat them.) Jesus set an example for us all – revealing what real love is! His love for people drew out the best in them, allowing them to see their own need and respond to Him. He treated people with respect, generosity of spirit, genuine care, and was always gracious. He added value to every life, and put something into each life – He ministered LIFE (and so shall we!) He was loyal – *“Having loved His own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.” (John 13:1)* His heart of love changed everything – minds, hearts, circumstances, attitudes and even atmospheres, we can do the same.

Jesus accepted people where they were. The late Ruth Bell Graham said, *“It is God’s job to change Billy – it is my job to love him.”* Profound! What would happen if we ceased to try to change people, and simply accepted them where they are; take our expectations off them and just love them? Something to think about

Jesus was sustained and strengthened by doing the will of His Father. I believe He enjoyed what He did – and we are to enjoy our Christian life – enjoy what He has given us to do – and the people (so precious to Him) He puts into our life and those we reach out to.



May He Touch & Fill Your Heart with
His Own Dear Heart Today ~

Toni Quinn
“For His Glory” Women’s Ministry

