



she loves

Devotional from Pastor Bev
September 17, 2009

Dear Friends,

Many of you know that I am an avid jigsaw puzzler. I love the challenge of assembling a thousand individual pieces into a cohesive picture. Every time I walk past the dining room table, I'll stop to put in a few pieces. The table seems to draw me, over and over until the picture is complete. But when it's done, I admire it for about two seconds and then back in the box it goes.

As I was lying awake early this morning I kept thinking and thinking, well actually I was wrestling and worrying, over a specific situation. An hour later I was still fretting, another hour later and finally I had the presence of mind to talk with God about it (you wouldn't have waited that long, right!!). What I remembered immediately was that He, God, could and did make sense of the situation I was worrying about, that He knew all about it and how to fix it. As our conversation continued I also heard Him remind me that He doesn't give the whole solution to just one person, but small parts of it to many people, and not necessarily all at once. It takes time for each piece to be revealed and joined to its neighbouring pieces, and then more time for the whole answer to be in place. Meanwhile we keep coming back to God again and again for more understanding.

Here is the danger. We often make an idol out of our piece. It becomes more important than any of the others and therefore more important than the whole picture. For example, you and a friend meet someone who is very lonely. Because you love to teach people about God, you immediately think of some verses that would directly apply to that person's situation. At the same time your friend who loves to pray for people, is thinking about what could be said in prayer. You might tell some others about this person you met, and their first inclination could be to invite them to a small home group, or to the weekend services. Another would have wanted to give this person a hug and be willing to cry with them. Which one is right? Is any one response more important than the others?

And yet we think our piece should have priority. How arrogant!! How destructive!!! How not like Jesus!!! I was reading in Proverbs this morning about generosity, wondering how God was going to weave the need for this characteristic into my day. Now I know.

Proverbs 11:24 (Message) The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

The generous hold their hands open. They do not clench their fists around their "piece" whether it is money or wisdom or giftings or callings or opportunities. They invite God to give and take at will. Oh, that I want to be known for this.

BEV: Lord, what am I holding on to tightly?

*ANSWER: Obedience to me and worship of me is much more important than the difference you can make in someone's life. I know you desperately want to have helped move people closer to me, but isn't that up to me? You obey and I will take care of the results.

BEV: So if I see the results as more important than my obedience, I'm in danger of taking the credit for them. That's awful. I'm so sorry. Anything, EVERYTHING I do that is good is from you and you alone. Thank you for reminding me. Which verse can help me with this?

ANSWER: Proverbs 11:2 Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

BEV: Humility it is.

What are you holding on to, too tightly? Perhaps it's actually holding on to you???? Just a thought.

Blessings from Bev

*The ANSWER refers to what I sense God is saying to me.

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