

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Back in the 19th century, long before the instant information age of the internet, a young pianist was traveling around Germany, giving concerts. To embellish her reputation, she declared that she was a pupil of the celebrated pianist and composer, Franz Liszt. Coming to one small town, she advertised a concert in the usual way; but to her surprise, and terror, she found that Mr. Liszt had also arrived at the hotel! What could she do? Certainly her dishonesty would be discovered; she'd be ruined. In desperation, she decided to go directly to Mr. Liszt himself. Pale and trembling, she went to his room to confess her fraud, and to beg forgiveness. She threw herself on the floor at the maestro's feet, sobbing, and shared the history of her life; left an orphan when very young, and possessing nothing but her musical gifts, she had tried to hide under the protection of his great name. Without a connection to Liszt's name, she would have been nothing—a nobody. But could he ever forgive her?

"Come, come," said Liszt, helping her get up, "Here is a piano. Let me hear a song you're planning for tomorrow's concert." She played, at first timidly, then with more confidence. The maestro listened, gave her some advice, suggested some improvements, and when she had finished her piece, he said kindly--"Now, my child, I have given you a music lesson. You **are** a pupil of Liszt."

He then added, "Are the programs printed?" "Not yet, sir." "Then let them add that you will be assisted by your master, and that the last song will be played by Franz Liszt." The young pianist had been disciplined and forgiven in the same action. She had been corrected with kindness.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Shouldn't we do the same when those around us fail or hurt us?