

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

2 Tim. 2:24-25a The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition ...

While waiting for a train, a little girl walked up to a chained criminal, and said: "Sir, I am so sorry for you." It made him mad, and he tried to shove the girl. Her mother pulled her away. But as they continued waiting, the mother got distracted, and again the little girl approached the convict and whispered: "Poor man, Jesus is so sorry for you." Startled, the man groaned, but didn't react. Years later, the man left prison as a Christian evangelist, and his favorite message was how God's compassion flowed from a gentle little girl; breaking his heart, and saving his soul.

People need to see the compassion of Jesus working through us! Do they need to hear about Jesus; Yes! But often times it is our gentleness that must lead the way; proving our sincerity. I found this to be true with a friend of mine.

My friend had been a pastor for many years, and then moved into a secular field of work. Sometime later he moved into an area where a particular cult was very strong. He knew the dangers of the group, but one day he began to check out some of their meetings. When I asked him how he could attend their services, knowing what they believed; he answered, "They are the only church that welcomed my handicapped son. No other "Christian" church wanted him there." I was heartbroken.

An old camp song says, "They will know we are Christians by our love." My friend did eventually leave the group. But I never forgot the lesson of that experience. I pray for the Christian community, that they might begin making gentleness and kindness part of their daily mission.