

My Weekend

Dear Friends:

This weekend has been an emotional roller coaster for me on a personal and spiritual level. Personally, I have faced a number of challenges. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. This is really hard sometimes for me because my neighbors get into the most craziest situations. Yesterday, I had to intervene in a situation that was very challenging. A new inmate in his twenties arrived last Thursday. He was assigned to Preach's cell. They kicked off really well. The brother told Preach that he, too, was a Christian and planned to live for Jesus. Preach asked him if he had any problems with anyone on the compound. The inmate said no - none that he was aware of. Well he had a major problem awaiting him. He had been directly or indirectly involved with hurting another inmate's friend on the street. And that inmate wanted revenge. That inmate got his revenge and that's where I came in. I had to be the peacemaker. Preach asked me to go with him to try to make peace. I did and the Lord spoke through me - I told the inmate that got revenge that this inmate only wanted to live for Jesus and let the situation be dead. I was told that I had no right getting into the matter because it was none of my business. I told him that the brother had confessed Christ and I am my brother's keeper. He respected those words and told me that it was a dead issue.

Oftentimes, we like to tell people what we feel that want to hear. I have been guilty of this myself. There's been things that I've needed done in and out of prison that I felt could only get done by saying what others wanted to hear. But I was wrong for doing that. There's a saying that says don't be so right that you're wrong. I was wrong to play on the feelings of others just to get ahead. Today, if it isn't in someone's heart to help me, I really don't want or need their help. God will make a way. I want each of you to know that it's never okay to just go along to get along. If something isn't right - you have to make it right.

It has taken a lot of work for me to get to where I am today. And I must confess that there's been times where people have gotten tired of helping me with my mission. And when that happened I got desperate and tried to tell others what they wanted to hear to help me. For doing that - I apologize to them and God. And I promise to always be honest - even if I feel that it isn't in a person's heart to do the right thing.

In closing, I want to say that this is the day that I have totally freed myself of fear. The fear of losing some of the help I was receiving had me in captivity for so long. But not anymore. I will not try to manipulate anyone into helping me help the children. If it isn't in your heart to do it, then you can explain that to God on judgment day.

May God Bless You All and thanks for allowing me to share my life.

Cedric Dean