

The Victim Mentality

I read this on Facebook today and had some thoughts.

One thing I came to peace with in 2022 is that I DON'T HAVE TO. I don't have to go out of my way. I don't have to be the bigger person. I don't have to fix anything I didn't break. I don't have to reach out to those who don't reach out to me. I don't have to support those who don't support me. I don't have to try to make everyone else happy. Anybody that knows me knows I will give the shirt off my back! It's draining physically and mentally to never have the energy you give out returned. Most importantly put yourself first and remember you don't have to.

First, I want to quote some scripture

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

Luke 6:36 Be Merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

Luke 6:33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

Matthew 7:12 In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 24:44 For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think he will.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Matthew 18:35 My Heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. The will pour into your lap a good measure-pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

Mark 12:31 The second is this, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. There is no other commandment greater than these.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

James 2:13 For judgement will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

Statement from Ezra Taft Benson:

The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would mold men by changing their environment. Christ changes men, who then change their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature. Yes, Christ changes men, and changed men can change the world.

Paul's conversion to Christ is a prime example of what President Benson is talking about, He was able to teach and bear witness to the world of the power of Christ to change lives because he had personally experienced that metamorphosis. He knew firsthand about both the cost and the implications of such a metamorphosis, and he also knew the impact that it could bring-not just for the individual, but also for the believers and the community as a whole.

Paul was the quintessential example of what is possible when a person turns to Christ.

Jesus

Luke 23:34 Jesus said, FATHER FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING.?

And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One. The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said "if you are the king of the Jews save yourself. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him. Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.

But the other criminal rebuked him. Don't you fear God? He said, since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong. Then he said "JESUS REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM.

Jesus answered him, I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 8:31...If God is for us. Who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present for the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Love Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord. On the contrary If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Jesus didn't have to go to the cross, but he did!! He bore the shame of the cross. He was without sin. He did all he was asked to do by the father, and they murdered him. Do you think it was mentally and physically draining for him? Simon from Cyrene was seized and the cross of Jesus was put on him to carry behind Jesus. I think he may have been a little physically tired from the 39 lashes he had taken.

Maybe he was mentally tired from telling people the truth and to repent. And they did not repent. They murdered him.

Have you suffered unto death? I haven't. Yes, I have been talked about badly by people who say they love me and call themselves believers. I have been used by people who called themselves my friend. I have had many things happen to me in my life, but I am only a victim if I chose to be one. I am more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus. I don't want to be a victim. I want to be a warrior for Christ!!

I love this quote by Joyce Meyer. You can be powerful or pitiful, but you can't be both. Chose who you want to be. The Lord has equipped us to be powerful through Christ Jesus, but the enemy wants you to stay pitiful so that you will never be effective in the kingdom. What kind of life do you want? Chose this day who you will serve. Chose life. Chose not to be a victim!!!