

I MUST TEACH OTHERS

JEHOSHAPHAT

2 CHRONICLES 17:7-9

Day 15

King Jehoshaphat made sure people were taught the ways of the Lord. He even went out on occasion to participate. We are all teachers whether we have earned the credentials or not. There is no time off; a real teacher does not go home at 3:05 p.m. & then stops teaching. It is a 24-7 profession.

The first lesson we teach is how to become a Christian. If we stopped to think that one through, we would probably never breathe a word of it to anyone. We have suddenly introduced a way of life that has to be modeled. Oh brother! What have I gotten myself into?

Every time I open my mouth, I am teaching people how Christians talk. Every time I use a certain facial expression, I am demonstrating the art of having a right attitude. When I put on the head phones or turn on the radio, TV, CD player, etc., I am showing people what Christians approve of as good listening material. When I experience sorrow & grief, I am showing a hurting world how it is done. When someone offends me & does something to make me mad, I get the opportunity to show an angry world, angry town, or angry church how to allow God to use that event to build my character. When I get married, I show the world how to treat my wife properly. When my kids need me, I can show the world how a Christian father gives his time, his heart, and his love to guide them to be Christians who will show the world how Christian teenagers live. When the people in my church encounter a problem with unity, we can show the world how important unity is, and the lengths we will go to in preserving that love & unity.

Most of the actions described above did not require lesson plans nor a scheduled class session. They just happened because I asked the Lord to teach me from His word; I told Him I was ready to live for Him; and I asked Him to forgive me for all the times I messed up.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. From all the Christians that you know, describe the lessons you have learned from listening to them talk & by watching them live.
2. How are you teaching with your life? Consider how you talk, what attitudes you exhibit, and how you behave in all situations. Take a chance. Ask someone how your life & behavior has demonstrated the way God would want things done.

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.