

KEEP ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE WEAK & WOUNDED

JEHOSHAPHAT

2 CHRONICLES 19:1-4

Day 17

King Jehoshaphat came back from battle (barely), and enjoyed some time of peace & success in his kingdom. He even traveled around the kingdom bringing his people back to the Lord. These people had times of war & times of miserable leadership, and times of fear & disappointment. These people would have had every reason to be totally spent, desirous of isolation, & hesitant to trust anyone anymore.

I know the next line: "I barely have time for me, let alone all the needy of the world."

Here is the cold truth: if you do not involve yourself with the needy, depressed, and wounded, then you must have shipped your brain to another planet. Our world is full of needy, depressed, and wounded. If you have no desire to help folks like this, then you & I are in direct disobedience to the Lord's commands to minister in this world.

No, you need not become a psychologist or a therapist. Think more basic. Walk the track or block with someone. Write a note to someone in need. Make a phone call that is not expected. Share a personal pain with someone with whom you share part of your day. Invite a neighbor to dinner. Give someone a ride to some event. Take someone to church. Give someone a book to read. Study a Bible lesson with someone.

Think where you are. Being available is where it starts. Your time – your time – your time – is what people need. We live too fast & we miss most of the people who need us. People will approach us when they see the speedometer in our face down below 25 mph. They will share hurts & fears when they see us pull over & stop. They will want what we have when we invite them into our car.

What a weird thought. When we reach out to the wounded & hurting, then the wounds & hurts we have will not seem so paralyzing.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How do you reach out to the hurting & the wounded? If you do not, what strategies should you instigate?
2. Remember the people who reached out to you. What did they do?

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.