

The Unlovable

Did you ever know someone who was “unlovable”? I not only knew someone like that; I had to work with him everyday. Bill, in my estimation, was the epitome of sin. His speech was filthy, as was his appearance. He also spent a considerable amount of time reading pornographic material. I went out of my way to keep his filth from rubbing off on me. My rationale for avoiding Bill was that “proper Christians”, like myself, never associated with people like him.

One day the Lord said to me, “I have something for you to do”. Eager to serve Him my quick response was, “Here I am, Lord, send me. When God revealed that the duty He desired me to perform was to ask Bill to forgive me for my attitude toward him, I was sure that the Lord had made a terrible mistake. My reply to God was, ‘Bill is the sinner, why should I ask him to forgive me?’ God’s words quickly set me straight as He admonished me that I knew better. He further explained that He loved Bill and that I had no right to pass judgment on His creation. It was clear to me that I had not only cast out the sin but also the sinner. God’s final words of “Who are you?” cut deep and I knew that I must obey God in order to progress in my walk with Him.

The day came when I knew that I could not delay speaking to Bill. As I walked toward his office, my legs seemed to turn to lead and my mouth felt as though it was full of a huge potato. As I opened the door, I saw Bill sitting in his chair reading his lewd magazines. Feeling very vulnerable, I gathered all my courage and began to speak.

I related to Bill how God had dealt with me about my attitude toward him. I let him know that God had made it clear to me that if I failed to ask his forgiveness that I would be responsible for keeping him out of the kingdom of God. I told him that I couldn’t bear that as it was my heart’s desire for him to come to know Jesus as his personal Saviour.

It seemed like hours before he replied but finally he slowly raised his head and said these words, “You didn’t have any choice, did you?”

The truth of his words should speak to you and me because, as Christians, we don’t have any choice. We are to be the demonstration of the life and love of the Lord Jesus to all whom we come in contact with, that the fragrance of Christ might be manifested through us. (2 Cor. 2:15) No, Bill did not drop to his knees and accept Christ right then, but there was an immediate change in his attitude on the job. The filthy stories ceased; his personal appearance improved and he was friendly and helpful to me as we worked together. More than that, I felt free from a heavy burden and a new surge of joy filled my heart. My obedience to God had set both of us free!

Sometimes loneliness manifests itself as coldness, heartache as bitterness, frustration as meanness.

Why is it we seem to act the most unlovable when we need to be loved the most?

Help me, Lord, to see past coldness, past bitterness, past meanness, and into the hearts of those who need to be loved the most!

Matthew 9:10-12 ...sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, “Why is your Teacher eating with the tax gatherers and sinners?” But when He heard this, He said, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.