

Friday - February 23

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

I said, "...they're not entirely wrong."

But, couldn't I have just said they were right (or at least partially right)? Why didn't I just say they were right? Would it be so painful to admit they could be right, that I could (at least partially) be wrong? Am I letting my own pride, my own need to be right or righteous get in the way of my relationship with someone else...or possibly the need to mend a relationship with someone else?

I could use this space to tell a story about how I believe my faith in God made me right in a situation. Maybe, I could draw a parallel to how I was like David on the righteous side of his conflict with King Saul, or how I was like Daniel when he risked his life to stand up for what his faith told him was right. In extreme arrogance, I could tell a story that compares me to Jesus sparing with the Pharisees.

I really wish I could tell you that I was a hundred percent in the right the majority of times I was in conflict and that I handled those situations with the grace and wisdom that my faith has instilled in me. The truth is, most of the times that God has broken through and touched my very soul, it has been those moments when I begin to realize that the fact I let a conflict or argument persist in the first place is proof that I was wrong...sometimes very wrong. It's that deep, sometimes piercing touch of the Holy Spirit that reminds me that David, Daniel, and Jesus showed compassion and grace more than they worried about self-righteousness. It is in that moment, when God touches my very guarded heart and reminds me that being right isn't what's important, that I can begin my to share the same grace God has given me with those I have been withholding it from.

Drew Thiele

PRAYER: Most Generous God, continue to touch my heart and fill me with grace. Remind me in my times of self-righteousness that you have not called me to be seen by others, but to let you be seen by them through me. In those times where my heart hardens towards others, let your loving touch soften it and refocus my mind on the importance of love and relationships over self-righteousness and arrogance. As you fan the flame of the Holy Spirit within me, let me work to lower my defenses and bring my lamp out from under the bowl so that the same light you gave me may help shine your light on those around me who deserve it just as much as I do. All honor and glory be yours. Amen.