

# Just One

## A Daily Devotional

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# Just One Matters



Scripture: Genesis 12:1,4

### Just One Step

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people  
and your father's household to the land I will show you....."*

*So Abram went...*

*Genesis 12:1, 4 NIV*

Not a single time in my life have I have ever moved closer to God while knowing exactly where He was taking me.

- I went on my first mission trip not knowing...
- I preached my first sermon not knowing...
- I stepped into my first church leadership role not knowing...
- I launched PCC not knowing.

Abraham (Abram) was called by God to go. He was given almost no information. Details were lacking. He wasn't even given a destination! God said simply, "the land I will show you."

These are defining moments not for a select few, but for you. God is calling YOU to take just one step, and if you'll take it, the adventure will begin. Maybe your just one step is to

- Join a small group
- Lead a small group
- Sign up to serve
- Commit to reading the Bible and praying every day
- Invite someone to know Jesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ ???

Whatever it is, you can be sure of this--God is calling you to take just one step. And he's not going to give you all the information you want. But you have all the information you need. Take your just one step today!

- ◇ *Remember one time when you embarked on an adventure without all the details. If you've been in relationship with God for some time, then when have you felt God give you direction?*
- ◇ *What is JUST ONE step you feel a nudge to take? If you don't feel a pull, then pray for God to give you direction on what step to take.*

*Dr. Brian C. Hughes is the Senior and Founding Pastor of PCC. He is a husband and father who is passionate about helping people come to know and to love God.*

**Scripture:** Luke 12:6-9

## Forget No One

*Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.*

*Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

*Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

*Luke 12:6-7*

Have you ever been forgotten? Did your mom forget to pick you up after practice? Did your boss forget to recognize your contributions? Were you not invited? Was there no seat for you at the table?

Being forgotten feels terrible. Sometimes it's an honest mistake; other times we're not wanted. When we're forgotten, we fear that we're not valued as friends, kids, parents, employees, or spouses.

Sometimes we feel like God has forgotten us. We think he's forgotten to show us what to do, to give us someone to love—a boyfriend, a wife, a baby, to provide a way out for us. But our feeling it doesn't make it true. The Bible reminds us of these truths, regardless of how we feel:

- God remembers you.
- God knows you.
- You have no reason to fear.
- You are valuable.

When a crowd of thousands gathered around Jesus, trampling each other, Jesus reminded them that no one is forgotten; he sees each and every one.

- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person who remembered, knew, and valued you when you felt forgotten. Thank God for him or her.*
- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person who feels forgotten. Pray for him or her.*

*Angie Frame is the Campus Pastor of PCC's Midlothian Campus. She's a lover of God, words, cooking, her two kids, and her high school sweetheart.*

**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

### Be the Good Samaritan

*On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

*Luke 10:25-27 NIV*

Everywhere you go, someone's talking about changing the world. We want to make a difference, and we want to make it happen right now! Now, don't get me wrong, I'm all for world change, but what if changing the world starts with altering the life of just one person?

Jesus used the Parable of the Good Samaritan to give an example of how we can help our neighbor. Here is a man, beaten and left for dead. Religious leaders pass him by as if he doesn't exist, but this one, ordinary man chooses to drop what he's doing and stop. He chooses to use his own resources to change the life of a person he doesn't even know. He doesn't hesitate, wait to find out the beaten man's religious beliefs, his net worth or political views. He just sees a need and follows through with action.

It's time we stop asking, "What can we do to help?" and start doing. Mow a friend's lawn; cook dinner for the neighbor who just had surgery; pack a gift bag for the homeless fellow in town. World change doesn't start big; it starts with just one.

- ◇ *Who changed your life for the better, made YOUR world a better place?*
- ◇ *Who is one person you can help today--through prayer, financial assistance, physical labor, etc.?*

*Lexi Sharma is the Student Coordinator at the Powhatan Campus. She's a beautiful wife to Ashwin, devoted new mom to Gray, and a leader in healthy living.*

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

## The Worst One

*...I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.*

*1 Timothy 1:16*

Best. Worst. We love smiling kids screaming out, “Best day ever!” We dread disgruntled daughters spewing out, “You’re the worst parents ever!”

Always. Never. We avoid these extreme words in relational conversations, as accusations of, “You never...” or, “You always...” escalate conflicts and explode problems to irrational levels.

Paul’s fiery personality peeks through his words to Timothy as he dramatically declares himself “the worst of sinners.” The truth is that he’s probably not the worst sinner. If we made a list of History’s Top 10 Worst Sinners, then Paul wouldn’t even get an honorable mention.

But our list wouldn’t matter to Paul. He feels like the worst sinner ever. We know that feeling--the head-dropping shame, the sick, sinking gut, the disbelief that we will ever stand tall and make eye contact again.

And yet, Jesus chooses Paul to spread his word, not just to one person, one church, or one city, but to many churches in many cities, and to countless people—even to you and to me as we read his words today. In Paul, others see hope and an example of how Jesus’ mercy can permanently transform anyone—even themselves when they would dramatically declare that they are “the worst of sinners.”

- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person you’ve seen God change from “the worst of sinners” to a new man or woman. Thank God for his work in his or her life.*
- ◇ *When have you felt like “the worst of sinners”? Have you accepted God’s grace for those regrets? How might God use your shame to reach JUST ONE?*

*Written by Angie Frame*

**Scripture:** Luke 15:1-32

## Rejoice Over Just One

*I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

*Luke 15:7*

Sometimes we want to be the one—the one who lands the account, who wins the game, who earns the award, the birthday boy. We soak up the praise. We cherish the cheers.

Sometimes we want to be part of the crowd—the anonymous audience, the unnoticed, unremarkable, under-the-radar employee, student, son, or mom. We rest in the ranks. We fade into the family.

We are the one, or we were the one, who repents. We're the one who realizes she needs to stop leading her own life, who gives it to Jesus, and who follows Him forward.

Then, we graduate to the crowd. Secretly we envy that the rejoicing is no longer for us. We now join the chorus, singing our part, celebrating the one, while no longer being the one.

But the crowd is essential. The crowd leaves repentance behind and pursues righteousness, or right living with God and others. The righteous 99 show the repentant one the way; they show each other the way. They travel toward Jesus together, comforting and correcting each other. Connecting within the crowd keeps each one from becoming isolated and lost again.

- ◇ *Do you more closely identify with the one or the crowd? How do you feel about your role?*
- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person who will rejoice, or has rejoiced, over your repentance. Thank God for him or her.*
- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person who you hope will repent. Pray for him or her.*

*Written by Angie Frame*



# Just One Connection With God



Scripture: 1 John 3:19-24

### For Keeps

*If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*

*1 John 3:20*

God made me. God loves me. Jesus wants to be my friend forever. These basic truths taught in PCC Kids resonate even in the hearts of adults. Why is that? Because truths about God never change no matter our age, circumstance or how we feel.

Feelings are powerful, but in the above scripture we read they can condemn us. As adults our feelings are more complex. The feeling of condemnation leads to paralyzing guilt, stopping us in our tracks. We pull away from God; sometimes we can even question our salvation. I know this, because I did for many years.

Learning truths about God and His character has been key in my spiritual journey. For example, when we do something wrong, God convicts our hearts. He draws us to ask for forgiveness, right our wrongs and know we are still His children even though we made mistakes.

Reading and studying the Bible over time helps construct a library of truths about God. One method I used was reading the book of Psalms. Psalms are packed with all kinds of feelings, but woven in the verses are truths about God. As I read through each psalm one summer, I underlined and rewrote the truths I saw about God and His character. This built a foundation to help my thoughts, decisions, actions and words become more truth-based than feeling-driven.

Salvation happens when Just One person believes in Jesus. "*We have confidence before God,*" (vs 21) because of our faith, not our feelings.

◇ *What is one area of your life where your heart is condemning you?*

◇ *Ask God to help you see His truths in this area of your life.*

*Gwen King is the PCC Kids Director. She loves Jesus and is Shelton's girlfriend of 33 years (& wife 27 of those years), Momma to Jess, Ryan & Brandon and mother-in-law to Thomas.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 22:34-40

### The Most Important One

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.  
This is the first and greatest commandment.”*

*Matthew 22:37-38*

A contemporary translation of this verse says, “...with **every passion** of your heart, with **all the energy** of your being, and with **every thought** that is within you.” Don’t skim over those words too quickly! That’s a radical kind of love!

Often, we see our Christian identity as a set of rules and regulations, or a certain cultural or political position. This scripture demonstrates Jesus’ respect for the law and the commandments. But Jesus invites us into a faith that doesn’t simply stop at believing that God exists; it is one that radically includes **every** aspect of our lives. To truly follow Jesus as his disciple means a profoundly different way of living.

Consider how your faith journey might look differently if **everything** you did, said, thought, dreamed, and desired was infused by God--and if your response was to show him intentional love. Not just considering what He wants you to do or say; not just praying or seeking His will in certain situations. Not only participating in activities like church, small group, or mission work (although all those things are good!)--but taking Jesus literally, loving God in **every** part of life.

Jesus himself said this was the most important thing; perhaps it’s a good place to start!

- ◇ *What are some natural ways you demonstrate love for the people in your life? Can you interact with God in the same way?*
  
- ◇ *What one thing can you do today to deepen your love relationship with God?*

*Beth Stoddard is a passionate, creative, relational, leadership force at PCC. She is wife to Tony, mom to five amazing men and women, and a master at the piano.*

**Scripture:** Luke 24:32

### The Walk of Flame

*They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*

*Luke 24:32*

Imagine the scene...The disciples experience a tragedy firsthand. Hopes are dashed. Confusion sets in. Jesus is still nowhere to be found on that third day after the crucifixion. They'd heard that Jesus' body was missing and that angels appeared to women claiming he was alive, but at that point the despair had taken root. Two of those disciples decide to walk away toward the town of Emmaus.

As they walk along a stranger appears (Jesus) who they do not recognize. He asks, "What are you discussing?" Floored at the question they wonder how this man had not heard the news. This stranger continues on... sharing God's story of redemption, quoting scripture concerning himself. Still, they don't recognize him.

Later that evening, Jesus broke bread. Suddenly they see that he is Jesus! "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" they ask. With hearts on fire, they rush back to Jerusalem to share the Good News--Jesus is alive!

What will it take for us to live each day like Jesus is alive? Life's challenges and unmet expectations can cause us to forget the Good News. At times it's difficult to sense our Savior walking with us, but He is; every step of the way. Let Him remind you today, as he did the disciples, that He is alive and that His word is powerful.

- ◇ *Who's JUST ONE person who inspires you to remember the Good News? Thank God for him or her.*
- ◇ *Consider asking JUST ONE person to take a "walk of flame" with you. Share favorite scripture or ways to have a heart on fire for God.*

*Anna Holland is the PCC Kids Coordinator for Power Jam and Edge at PCC's Powhatan Campus. For 13 years, she and her family have considered PCC their second home, and for 18 years, she's been enjoying the reality TV show, "Survivor."*

**Scripture:** Mark 2:1-12

### Connect with Jesus

*Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

*Mark 2:3-5, NIV*

Immovable legs prevented a man from getting access to Jesus. He literally, physically could not walk to Jesus—maybe because of an accident, a birth defect, an illness.

*What keeps us from connecting with Jesus?* Maybe there are personal difficulties—pain or struggles in our pasts, physical or mental illness that have kept us away.

A crowd plugged the way to Jesus. There was no clear path. People clamored and charged, creating confusion, all around—all focused on connecting with Jesus themselves.

*What blocks us from getting to Jesus?* Maybe it's the crowd of Christians we know who don't seem very loving or gracious. Maybe it's that we can't see the way; we don't know how to get to him. Maybe we feel like there's no place for us, no one on the lookout for us.

Four guys overcame all those obstacles to connect just one man with Jesus. They lifted him when he couldn't stand; they carried him when he couldn't walk. They plowed their way through the crowd; they clawed their way through the roof.

They brought one man to Jesus where he found forgiveness, healing, and redemption.

- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person who brought you to Jesus with prayer, a church invitation, or friendship. Thank God for him or her.*
- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person who needs help getting to Jesus. Ask God to send people to help, and offer to be one of those people.*

*Written by Angie Frame*

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 4:1-7

### Just One More

*“Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.” Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”*

*...When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.” But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.*

*2 Kings 4:1-7 NIV, excerpts*

More than once in my life, the blessing of God was limited not by God’s goodness, but by me. I was exhausted or impatient or distracted, or if I’m being honest, maybe even angry once or twice. Each instance had a different reason but the same result--the blessing of God was limited by me.

This woman could have received the miracle of 1,000 jars filled with oil. But the blessing was turned off, because she only got a limited number of jars ready. God gave her the instructions: “Get all the jars you can!” He implied clearly that He was going to fill them all up, no matter how many she brought. But she didn’t bring many. The blessing could have been even bigger, but she capped it by only bringing a few jars.

In what ways do you think you have perhaps limited the blessing God wants to give to you? Today, could you look at God in a different way and have enough faith to know he will fill every jar?

- ◇ *When has God given you abundantly more than you asked or imagined? Thank Him for his gift and provision.*
  
- ◇ *What does it mean for you to “get all the jars you can” right now?*

*Written by Dr. Brian C. Hughes*



# Help Just One



**Scripture:** Proverbs 11:24-25

### Empty Hand, Full Heart

*One person gives freely, yet gains even more;  
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

*Proverbs 11:24-25*

My wife has one of the biggest hearts I have ever known; she tries to hide it though. Every Monday during her drive to work, she stops and brings breakfast to a man who lives under a bridge near downtown Richmond. Week after week, month after month, she stops, and every Monday she comes home with a smile on her face, excited to tell me the latest news about her new friend. Her heart, even though I didn't think it was possible, has gotten even bigger. The gift she receives every Monday is worth far more than a cup of coffee and a hot biscuit.

Isn't it interesting that when we give, it feels like we get more in return? Then why do we struggle to let go of the material, when the reality is that there is no dollar amount or bank account size that can bring the kind of joy that comes from helping one in need? Generosity isn't about going broke, it's about mending the broken. It's about submitting ourselves to God, the Creator of the universe, and letting go of our false notion that we are in control. Our gift comes not in the guarantee of financial stability, but in our fulfillment when we are faithful in our care of others.

- ◇ *Let's never forget that God is the giver of every good thing in life; everything we possess is a gift. What would He have us do with those gifts?*
  
- ◇ *There is at least one person in your life or whom you cross paths with who could use some refreshing, some generosity. How can YOU be a gift to them this week?*

*Jerimy Ford is a campus pastor at PCC, a husband, father and hunter. He's a lover of all things automotive, working with wood (with little success) and being around people.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 25:31-46

### Help One of the Least

*'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'....*

*'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'*

*Matthew 25:40, 45*

The world's problems are overwhelming. We want to help, but we don't know where to start. Which problem do we tackle first? Do we help our neighbors in our communities who are hungry, or do we help people around the world who are starving? Which charities share our values? Do they steward money efficiently, effectively, and with integrity?

Jesus says we start by helping just one person. He names a few types of people who are ideal candidates—those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and imprisoned. This list is not exhaustive. Elsewhere in the Bible, there are clear directions to help widows and orphans. Often, there is overlap between those who need food, water, clothes and company, and those who are alone in the world.

Jesus doesn't tell us to solve all the world's problems, to feed all the world's people, or to visit all the sick and forgotten. He says that whatever we do for just ONE of the least of these, we do for him. On the contrary, whatever we fail to do for just ONE of the least of these, we fail to do for him.

- ◇ *Who's JUST ONE person who provided for you, cared for you, or visited you? Thank God for him or her.*
- ◇ *Who's JUST ONE person you could feed, clothe, care for, or visit? How and when could you help?*

*Written by Angie Frame*

**Scripture:** Galatians 6:1-6

## I'm Here for You

*Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ*

*Galatians 6:2*

Most people have at least one good friend--the kind of friend who you can call any time, in any situation, and expect nothing less than immediate action as they come to your aid.

Relationships such as this are enduring, accountable, and built on a firm foundation of trust.

Remember, if you can, what it was like when you first met your most trusted friend. It's likely that the trust you have today did not exist when you first met, that there was a defining moment that assured you they would always be there for you.

In his letter to the church in Galatia, Paul encourages the followers there to carry each other's burdens. Today that challenge is as relevant as it was then, perhaps even more. If we exam our day we encounter coworkers, cashiers, and neighbors--all of whom have problems and concerns. When someone shares their concerns with us a door opens; all that is left is to walk through it.

Paul does not specifically define what carrying others' burdens may look like. However, Paul's charge for us reflects Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself. When our load seems heavy having someone to reach out to gives us hope that we don't have to face life alone. Furthermore, it builds trust and creates opportunities for us to make the best decision we can to move forward.

Helping Just One person starts with our willingness to listen when someone needs a friend.

- ◇ *Who is the one person you know is always willing to be there for you? Thank God for them and send them a quick text.*
  
- ◇ *Who is one person that has shared a burden with you recently? Pray for guidance on how you can help.*

*Bryan Pope is the Campus Pastor at PCC's Powhatan Campus. He loves experiencing God in nature, living life to the fullest with his wife and kids, and sharing conversation with anyone who is willing.*

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

### One Needs Help

*If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.*

*Ecclesiastes 4:10*

Falling is funny. Watching people fall off skateboards and stages, down stairs and mountains, on ice and banana peels, and through roofs and floors has been making us laugh for decades, probably centuries, maybe even millennia.

But when is falling NOT funny? When you're alone.

I fell when I was pregnant with my son. Actually, I had help falling. My Labrador retriever yanked on his leash, pulling my shoulder out of socket, and then I fell onto the gravel driveway. I was alone. Bits of gravel embedded themselves in my arm, legs, and face. They tore apart sweater on loan from a friend. My arm hung limp, immobile, making driving impossible.

I needed help. Sometimes, each of us needs help. Sometimes, each of us is needed to help the fallen one.

Not all falls are dramatic and comical. There are people around us who've fallen from grace, popularity, and success. There are people who've fallen into despair, debt, and divorce. There are people who've fallen out of faith and family. They need just one person to help them up.

- ◇ *Who's JUST ONE person who helped you up when you fell? Thank God for him or her, and consider reaching out and thanking that person if you're able.*
- ◇ *Who's JUST ONE person who has fallen and needs your help? Pray for him or her, and look for a way to step in and help.*

*Written by Angie Frame*

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-14

### The Truth Helps

*Nathan said to David, "You are the man!..."*

*David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."*

*2 Samuel 12:7, 13*

"You're the man!" Usually, that's an exclamation of affirmation, encouragement, and praise. It usually means, "I believe in you."

But between best friends Nathan and David, "You're the man" means quite the opposite. David has made a series of egregious errors. He's the king, so he's surrounded by people who bite their tongues and keep their mouths shut. When his subordinates shout, "You're the man," it's empty, insincere, incorrect flattery.

That's not helpful. What David needs is a true friend who will help him see his mistakes. That's where Nathan comes in. When Nathan utters, "You're the man," he's pointing out to David that he is the man—not who can do anything—but who is guilty of abuse and murder. Helping David means that Nathan has to find the courage to say what no one else will.

Nathan's truth-telling guides David to the place where he can admit, "I have sinned."

All of us have sinned (see Romans 3:23). Like David, we sometimes have a hard time seeing it. We need help; we need a real friend; we need to be real friends.

- ◇ *Who's JUST ONE person who has been a real friend to you and helped you see the truth, even when it hurt? Thank God for him or her, and consider reaching out and thanking that person if you're able.*
  
- ◇ *Who's JUST ONE person whom you love and with whom you have a strong relationship that needs a real friend? Pray for him or her, and look for the right time and words to help.*

*Written by Angie Frame*



Who's Your  
Just One?



**Scripture:** Romans 12:13, Philippians 2:4, Proverbs 3:27

### Could It Be Your Neighbor?

*“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”*

*Romans 12:13, NIV*

*“Not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of the others.”*

*Philippians 2:4, NIV*

*“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.”*

*Proverbs 3:27, NIV*

Newly grandparent-less. Fatherless. Daughter of a single parent. Descriptions of 9-year-old me. When I was struggling and grieving the loss of my last grandparent, my neighbors stepped in.

Did they have to help? No. But they jumped right in to take care of my physical needs. They fed me, invited me to play on the farm, and taught me life-skills. On Sundays when my mom had to work at one of her many jobs, Betty and Don chauffeured me to church, supporting my spiritual growth. My neighbors made me feel loved and accepted at a time when I felt so heartbroken and lost.

My neighbors, now known as my “adopted grandparents,” saw a need and did not hesitate to be Jesus’ hands and feet. God nudged them to help, and they listened. Because of their investment, my life changed. At 9-years-old, I accepted Jesus as my savior and began my spiritual journey.

God calls us to practice hospitality and to act when it is in our power to do so. Betty and Don embraced and influenced me, and showed me Jesus through their actions. I believe I would not be who I am today had they not made me their JUST ONE. Who can you invest in? Our actions can impact someone eternally.

- ◇ Thank God for Just One person who has shown you hospitality.
- ◇ Is God nudging you to help a neighbor in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual support? Ask God to show you how you can help.

*Jaimie Parisi is the Kids Coordinator at PCC’s Farmville Campus. She loves God, her handsome husband, and being a “boy mom.”*

**Scripture: Matthew 5:43-44**

### Your Enemies Need You

*You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

*Matthew 5:43-44*

When we read Scripture, we are often brought face-to-face with truths and challenges that run contrary to what the world tells us. That is just one of the many reasons that we need it! The Scripture we're studying today is a marvelous example of this, and one that we need desperately.

Jesus is addressing a large crowd when He says this well-known passage of Scripture, and I imagine a lot of those present that day were shocked when He said it. Maybe it's shocking to you right now if this is your first time reading it! These words are startling, because **they flip the script on us**. It goes without saying that we should love our neighbor; that's the easiest thing in the world to do! It's expected that we love those who love us, but while it might feel good, it isn't enough to bring about the change in people's lives Jesus desires. Loving those whom you don't get along with, whom you can't stand, who hate you--**THAT is the unexpected action that can change someone's life**.

Learning to love those who don't love us might be exactly what they (and we) need to draw closer to Jesus and to flip the script on hate in our world!

- ◇ *Who's **one person** that has shown love to you when you didn't deserve it? Thank God for them today!*
  
- ◇ *Who is **JUST ONE** person that you can reach out to who fits the devotional above? Write their name here, pray for them now, and reach out today!*

*Elijah Schiarelli leads in PCC Worship and PCC Students. He's husband and father to two beautiful girls--Megan and Oaklyn, a student of God and his word, and a lover of ketchup.*

Scripture: Acts 16:25-34

### Reach Your Household

*The jailer...asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

*They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house....*

*The jailer...was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.*

*Acts 16:29-34*

The people in our homes, schools, offices, and daily lives—they're the ones who matter most. Mundane minutes become shared experiences that unite us. We annoy each other the most; we know each other the best.

They are the people who we most want to find salvation from worry & waste, habits & hang-ups, apathy & addiction. We wonder what we must do for them to be saved.

The jailer wondered how he could be saved. Paul & Silas told him that he needed to believe in the Lord Jesus. Then, they (Paul & Silas NOT the jailer) shared the truth of Jesus with his family, and the whole household believed.

As much as we want, we cannot save our households or make them believe. But, if we believe that Jesus is God, that he's present, that he's love....if we make him Lord in our lives—determining our decisions, rearranging our attitudes—, then our households, classes, and companies might be saved. Because of what they see in us, they may hear the truth from someone else. Then, those people who annoy us, know us, and matter most to us will have opportunities to choose salvation.

- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person who showed you what believing in Jesus looked. Thank God for him or her.*
- ◇ *Who's JUST ONE person in your daily life who needs to believe in Jesus? Pray for him or her to see Jesus in you and to be open to belief in Jesus.*

*Written by Angie Frame*

**Scripture:** John 4:1-26

### The Unexpected One

*When a Samaritan Woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"*

*The woman said to him, "Sir, give me the water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water"*

*John 4:7,15*

Jesus was a masterful teacher in many different settings. He taught in large crowds and, in cases like this account in John, one-on-one. What I find fascinating about this interaction is its conversational manner. You and I have conversations that start this way daily, and often with strangers.

I haven't always been a coffee connoisseur; however, over the past few years I have grown an appreciation for good coffee. When I frequent my favorite cafe, I usually start by saying I would like to have a cup of coffee. We could look at interactions like this as purely transactional, but it reminds me frequently of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman.

Jesus is not only teaching here, but he is also having a spiritual conversation that starts with a drink of water. In our daily travels we encounter people in stores, restaurants, doctors' offices, our jobs, etc. The difference between our daily interactions and Jesus' interaction is that he enters his day with intentionality to be ready if a conversation arises. I encourage you to read the whole account because it's clear the woman drives the conversation, and Jesus listens and responds. We can do the same; be ready to listen, caring in your response, and unafraid to start a conversation that may be life-changing.

- ◇ *Who is a person that had a spiritual conversation with you and made an impact? Thank God for them today.*
  
- ◇ *Think of Just One person whom you might interact with this week, and be prepared to listen if a conversation starts.*

*Written by Bryan Pope*

Scripture: Ruth 1:14-16

### Could It Be Your Mother-in-Law?

*...Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.*

*“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”*

*But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”*

*Ruth 1:14-16*

Who’s your just one? Who’s the person God wants you to pray for, to love, and to show his grace? Is it your neighbor? Your enemy? Your husband or wife, son or daughter? A random stranger you pass in the coffee shop?

Could it even be your mother-in-law?! Or father-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law?

Many people would rather God call them to reach out to a stranger at Starbucks than to reach out to their in-laws. The family we inherit in marriage becomes the butt of jokes and almost as much as “Your mom” and dumb blondes. (I say that as a mom and a previous blonde.)

But God’s grace reaches across the globe, into forgotten crevices of communities, to the least likely people. That includes mothers-in-law—even difficult ones. Ruth’s mother-in-law, Naomi, has suffered the tragic loss of two sons. Bitterness has broken and conquered her heart. She’s difficult to love.

And she’s Ruth’s “just one.”

Ruth clings to Naomi when walking away would be reasonable, justified, and easy. She stubbornly stays and refuses to separate until Naomi softens and a smile returns to her face.

- ◇ *Name JUST ONE person who loved you when you were difficult—bitter, depressed, angry, cynical, or isolated. Thank God for him or her.*
- ◇ *Who’s your JUST ONE? Might it be the least likely person?*

*Written by Angie Frame*