

Pete Campola

From: Jodi Haier [jodester32@twcny.rr.com]
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To: jodester32@twcny.rr.com
Subject: I'm back- today's devotion

40 Days of Community

A Set of Thoughts, Ideas, Questions and Ponderings
Submitted for your Digestion
October 17, 2005 Day 22

Introduction: We are all in "this" 2gether. No one is getting out alive. As we explore what it means to be in community through Rick Warren's [better together](#) it is essential that we tailor make this study to fit our communities. This devotional is meant to be a conversation starter. It is personal musings on the daily readings' subject. If another author is not noted then the opinions expressed are those of Jodi Haier and only reflect her understandings and her journey. If you do not wish to receive a devotional a day for the next 40 days, please respond to this email with a thoughtful "no, thank you" " Instead of just forwarding this *please* send people's email to me. I am not trying to be a control freak but I want to know where God's going with this. People viewing this on the webpage can contact the webmaster with any comments. THANKS! Jodi

Fellowship 2gether: "cultivating a life in common"

(1Cor 1:10)

*Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with cords
that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together,
bind us together with love.
Words by Bob Gillman*

How are we bound 2gether? The hymn states that we are bound by cords that cannot be broken. We are bound with love. A dear friend of mine recently lost her husband. She didn't misplace him, he died. When we talked of his passing, it was with reverence and compassion. The entire death process was a transition in love. Legally, she is no longer married. Yet, part of her life is forever tied to that man. His voice, his laugh, his lessons and his annoying habits are now and forever more a part of the woman she is. If these cords cannot even be broken by death, shouldn't we make conscious decisions on how we are binding our lives to each other? Remember the only thing that been proven to change man (generic) is love.

We are bound together like the bedrock and the stream. One cannot leave the other. The water carves deep grooves and majestic artwork in the impenetrable rock. That which was carelessly compacted is worn away by the patience of time. All the while the rock nourishes the water. It stirs it and aerates it. Its mineral essence permeates the liquid and is transported out of the rock's reach. The rock provides boundaries and the water, movement. How are we bound together? Is it more powerful than gravity? Is it more powerful than death?

Grow 2gether: "accepting, affirming, and advising"

(Rom 15:7, 1Thess 5:11, Col 3:16) Today's reading is about models and mentors. Models are everywhere. We just need to observe and understand. We need to emulate the attitudes and behaviors that are apparent. We need to practice skills and learn knowledge. Models call for us to be disciplined. It requires us to humble ourselves to the point where we can accept that someone else figured out the answer before us. Models are time and space specific. They are not called on to be models for every situation. A person who models patience in the nursing situation (models patience, not models patients, ewwww) may fall apart in a nursery school setting. The best way to find more models is to appreciate and recognize the ones we already have.

Mentors imply a relationship. A mentor invests time and experiences in their protégé as part of the transition process. A protégé follows and observes. You are required to question and test and experiment under the mentor's guidance. You learn as much from the mentor's mistakes as from her success. A protégé learns strength from what the mentor accomplishes in her weakest time and learns wisdom in her restraint. A mentor is a guide. The

relationship is not the role of patron, monetarily supporting the artist's pursuit of truth and beauty. That relationship can destroy the artist and his work. A mentor walks alongside the student and shows them how to see the world. What are you looking at and what do you see?

Serve 2gether: “working 2gether with 1 heart & 1 purpose”

(Phil 2:2) My neighbor-friend Debbie has a monopoly on order. She has the cleanest house and the most wonderful children. She does amazing work for the Rome City Schools and Rome First United Methodist Church. She functions in the world through organization. It is the only way the universe makes sense to her. It is part of her tradition and her legacy. It is how she shows how much she loves.

I have been sick. My biggest move was from bed to bathroom to recliner. Debbie called to pick up things from the grocery. I now have 9 juices on my counter. Debbie sent her kids to play Scrabble. On Sunday, after church and chores, Debbie and Katie, her daughter, came and cleaned my house for two hours. They swept and vacuumed. They put things away. They talked to me and teased my husband. I couldn't even lift my finger. Debbie and her daughter gave me the gift of order. Neither can cure my delicate health. They can't raise enough money or fight a foe. They gave me that part of their life that brings meaning and healing. They did it in Jesus' name.

The soup that Pat had made for me was shared with Debbie and her family. Debbie brought some camping and it warmed her extended family. Debbie took care of my house so my husband could make corn chowder for my family. “What goes around comes around.” None of us served the other in expectation of reward. We are merely working 2gether with 1 heart and 1 purpose. I guess that is how we were designed.

Worship 2gether: “come 2gether in my name”

(Matt 18:20)

Blessed Be Your Name

Tree 63

Written by John Ellis

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed be Your name

Do we bless the name in both abundance and the desert place, in both the diet and the dessert? In ancient times, knowing someone's name meant you held some power and control over that person and his family. A god you could name could be called and invoked at any time. I imagine it was like biblical Pokemon. That's why Moses wished to know the name of the god of the burning bush. So the power of God's name could be wielded. God answered, “I Am.” It is enough that God exists. This begins the habit of God being named by a verb. “Bless-ed”, implies a noun, one who is blessed. Blessed means enjoying happiness. (p. 76 good old Webster's Intermediate) Jesus enjoys our happiness. It is our ability to find or manufacture happiness in the midst of ruin that God enjoys. Yes, God enjoys our praise in the light of success, peace, harmony and joy. How much more enjoyment will be had when we walk through the wilderness with assurance. The desert place is dry and difficult, but it does not preclude laughter. In The Message, Eugene Peterson writes in Luke 6;

“You're blessed when you've lost it all.
God's Kingdom is there for the finding.
You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry.
Then you are ready for the Messianic meal.
You're blessed when the tears flow freely.
Joy comes with the morning...
...You can be glad when that happens-
skip like a lamb, if you like.
For even though they do not like it, I do...
And all heaven applauds.”

The Lord of all creation does not exalt in our struggles. God loves us through them and enjoys our happiness in the

midst of our weaknesses. I am glad that I have a Popeye God: “I YAM, What I YAM!” I am also glad that I have a present God: “I AM that I AM!” Blessed is God’s name indeed.

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Reach Out 2gether: “get others to believe”

(Phil 1:27) I remember an episode of The Cosby Show, where Cliff advises Elven to “take it.” It being whatever his wife, Sandra was going to dish out. Elven had messed up and now was when he’d begin to pay. I have the same advice for you: “take it!”

I went to the YWCA on Thursday. (Great place, those of you in Oneida County should visit.) I took it. I even asked for more. My group’s service project involves the Y and I was there to take pictures. I was also there to take “**IT**.” “It” included hopes, dreams, and visions. I was there to take theirs not impose mine. “It” also included reservations, past mistakes and fears. I was there to alleviate what I could, and address them all. “It” included the responsibility for being Jesus’ representative to those people and the people they protect and serve. As we move throughout our community, we need to be prepared to take all that they have to give. It is only then that they will have room for anything that we have to offer. No one is asking you to solve all the problems, band-aid all the wounds and dry every tear. In your best Heathcliff Huxtable impression, “Take it!” Then present these offerings in prayer to your Savior King. Our God is big enough to take anything and everything we can dish out.