

Pete Campola

From: Jodi Haier [jodester32@twcny.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2005 12:58 PM
To: jodester32@twcny.rr.com
Subject: today's devotion

40 Days of Community

A Set of Thoughts, Ideas, Questions and Ponderings
Submitted for your Digestion
October 26, 2005 Day 31

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) I have a pick-up truck. Besides a lottery win, buying a pick-up really brings out family you didn't know you had. It has transported furniture, building supplies, camping supplies, concrete and many other large items. It is just one of those resources that are available to the fellowship. Just as the Wiginton truck was available to us, for our move. Each of us has resources that when made available to the fellowship, strengthen the kingdom. How could we make these resources available to those people outside of our immediate fellowship? How can we put rakes, weed-whackers, pruners, and power-washers to good use? What about our skills in cooking, caring, connecting and campaigning? Often people are not looking for money. We often use money as a lubricant, not just to make things flow easier; but to help things we don't want to deal with slide away. Part of fellowship is allowing the relationships we have to become personal. With that type of relationship we need to redefine ownership. When we place our life in God's hands, which includes our toys and tools. We are blessed to have so much to offer.

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

(Rom 15:7, 1Thess 5:11, Col 3:16) I give things away. My friend Michele once told me, (paraphrased to protect those easily offended) "Jodi, if you could defecate out your belly button, you would give your anus away." For the longest time I looked at my giving habits as something bad. I thought I was somehow gypping my friends and family by giving away to anyone who had a need. I felt the peer pressure and I let it change my behavior. After all, who else would look out for number one? How was I going to get ahead if I kept giving up the lead? Didn't God want me to enjoy life abundantly?

On a recent rerun of [Seinfeld](#), Jerry realizes that he is Even Steven. Everything that is taken away will be replaced. Everything lost will return. This increases his laissez-faire attitude, where nothing really matters because he will come out even in the end. I am not suggesting that you give everything into God's hands with the assurance that it will all come back and multiplied. I am suggesting that God knows what we need to accomplish God's will in our life. By allowing God to control our toys and tools, we will live abundantly, by God's standards. This type of giving is sacrificial. It is not that we will suffer because of this gift. We will sacrifice our control for God control. Everything we need already belongs to the kingdom, we need to access it. What else do we need?

Serve 2gether: "working 2gether with 1 heart & 1 purpose"

(Phil 2:2) Have you all heard the folktale, [Stone Soup](#)? <http://stonesoup.esd.ornl.gov/stonesoup.html> is a link that will tell the story. Do we need to be conned out of our provisions? Or is everything we own available for God's work? This is easy to answer if we are talking about just toys and tools. What if we are asked to give our time? What if someone wants my camper for a year? What if I am asked to make \$30,000 less a year for the rest of my life? What if

10/28/2005

I lose my home in the process? What if I don't know what will happen next? In the story, no one was asked to give up everything for the sake of the soup. But there was scarcity in the province. Only Christ was asked to sacrifice all, to save our souls. We are called to be Christ-like. That may mean we lose something we treasure, in the pursuit of something we need. This weekend we sang the Prayer of St. Francis, several times. I even sang it to a friend who is in the ICU. What will I be asked to give in response to this prayer?

Prayer of St. Francis (Emmaus Songbook #44)

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you,
Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy,
O Master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul!
Make me a channel of your peace,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal, life,
And in dying that we're born to eternal, life

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

(Matt 18:20) Who do you sit with in church? Who do you sit with at lunch? Do you have a special place at the dinner table? I always notice how people gravitate to the same place whether there is assigned seating or not. Maybe this goes back to some ancient regulation regarding class. “Know your place, servant” Luke 14:7 – 11

⁷When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Be conscious of who you sit with and how available you are. If you find yourself saying, “I didn't get anything from worship.” Maybe you should change your seat for starters. Let us make room for all the people that Jesus wants to exalt. I wouldn't want to be in a place of honor and have Jesus ask, “Do I know you?” I'd rather have him touch my shoulder and lift me up. Where do you sit? Are you comfortable there?

Reach Out 2gether: “get others to believe”

(Phil 1:27) Unless I allow God to make radical changes in me, how can I hope to influence others? If I can't see what God has done, how is anyone else going to see? Does your close friend or coworker notice that you have dropped 10 pounds? Does your family notice a new hairstyle? Usually the answer is no. People close to us only see the real essential us. They are not easily swayed by new styles. (Unless they are hideous) People who have not seen us in a while can pick out 20 things that have changed. We have spent 31 days focusing on community, has anyone noticed a change? Ask someone that is not with you everyday. Explain what you have been doing. Ask if they have seen a change. They have nothing to lose. Their honest perspective may open up an evangelism doorway or an opportunity for your further growth. Since I've been going to licensing school people have noticed a change. They treat me

differently as I treat them differently. I'd be interested in knowing, what the difference has been. Sometimes we are blind to the changes God has wrought. We need fresh eyes to see the artwork that we live with.