



Turn The Other Cheek

When Suzette asked me if I would be willing to write articles for the monthly newsletter I have to admit I was a bit hesitant. She said you will only have to write the article every third month as Cindy and Linda have agreed to do it also. I thought to myself what will I write about? Yes indeed our Shady Ladies are constantly busy but we don't have something going every single month to write about even if it seems we do! I wondered would I run out of things to say....hardly....material just keeps presenting itself. Just as this story I am about to relay to you. Even though it isn't about our Ladies Ministry it affects us all...Turn The Other Cheek. When someone has wronged us and boy can that sting, we still must turn the other cheek as Jesus has commanded us to do so in Matthew 5:39 "But as I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

I am one of the very blessed fortunate women at my age to have my Mother still with me. I can't tell you what a comfort it is to be able to pick up the phone and just give her a call or hop in my car and drive a few hours to Arkansas and visit with her. There truly is nothing like a big hug from Mom! The other day on one of our long phone conversations Mom said Rosie oh Rosie....our church, our church...I just don't know what's going to happen! Please pray for our church! I asked what was going on at church. Before I tell you let me give you some background of this church.

My parents joined when I was 15 years old and the Pastor at that time was Brother Jordan a wonderful man that we all loved dearly. He built that country church from the ground up. Since he left they have seen many pastors come and go which I think is typical in a country setting even though they have built a very nice brick parsonage on some acreage as part of the package to try and entice pastors to want to come to that part of the country. My Dad was an Elder before he passed away, my brother is a Deacon (he is actually married to Brother Jordan's granddaughter) and he is the church treasurer. My mother has always been very active as a Sunday School teacher, kitchen worker and in the ladies ministry but is slowing down due to her age. All of my boys were saved in this church when they visited my parents farm during summer vacations. As you can see my family's roots run deep in this church.

Well they have had Pastor Dino for many years. When my Dad was sick in the hospital in ICU he came and stayed with us. You see Mena is a small town so if you get a major illness you have to seek medical help in larger towns. Brother Dino would drive that hour and a half every day to be with our family and some nights he even stayed there and slept on the couch. When my Mom had to have back surgery he came to Hot Springs and stayed with me the entire time to make sure she was okay before returning to Mena. He would check on my parents every week and would even chop them wood as they burned it in their fireplace all the time. He loved them so much and thought so highly of them. While we sat waiting for my Mom's surgery to be over he told me just how highly he regarded my family and didn't know what he would do without them. I really liked him.

My Mother told me one Wednesday evening she was walking into church and she met Dean and Penny walking out. She heard Dean say, Penny I asked you not to say that and so have I....AND WE WON'T BE BACK! She said she was shocked and looked and there was only Brother Dino and one other woman in the church. She was perplexed as to what in the world could have happened. Now let me tell you about Dean. He is also an Elder. He and his wife are just beautiful people. Dean has recently had to have quadruple by-pass. Mom told me that when my Dad had that the surgeon said it takes a while to get your emotions in check. Dean and Penny have also been going to church for a very long time as well. He wasn't going when we were kids but he joined some time after I left home because he and Penny raised their boys in Mt. Fork and their oldest actually became the Pastor for a few years.

My Mother called Penny the next day to make sure they were alright.....NOT to GOSSIP....to make sure they were alright. My Mother is one of the most beautiful souls you have ever met. She has read the Bible cover to cover I don't know how many times and if you need guidance she's your woman. Penny explained as they were walking in Brother Dino said well hello friend and you too Dean. It made Dean extremely mad which if you knew him is so out of character. Well he walked right over to Brother Dino and smacked him upside his head! He turned around and said Penny has asked you not to say that and so have I and then of course shouted and we won't be back. She then told my Mom that he had said it several times before that. Penny explained that Dean felt it was disrespectful as he was an Elder of the church and should be treated as such. Of course I was like wait a minute Mom....y'all have both Elders and Deacons? Why yes, you need to read 1st Timothy....okay, okay I said get back to your story because by now she has me on the edge of my seat. I did later see there is a difference in Elders and Deacons.

Mom said that Sunday she arrived early as she always does to prepare communion; you see they celebrate every Sunday. Brother Dino came into the kitchen and she asked him how he was. He told her he was very troubled, very troubled and how did she feel. She told him at her age she tried not to listen to gossip nor to let her tongue rule her. She tried to follow Jesus' teaching to turn the other cheek and let things go and not to sit and stew. He said well I probably should take a page out of your book.

Later she watched as Dean and Penny did come back to church. Dean walked right up to Brother Dino, hugged him and said I am sorry for the way I behaved....I love you Brother. Mom said her heart was so filled with Joy she just sat and praised God her prayers had been answered. It was done! She went home with a happy heart! Little did she know the devil was working.....

After church Brother Dino called an emergency meeting which he didn't even have the authority to do according to their by laws. Almost all the Elders and the Deacons had left. It was just my brother and his wife, her Dad (an Elder) and Mom, Dean and Penny, and Brother Dino and his wife. My brother said they were all looking like what is going on? Brother Dino demanded that Dean step down. You see he could not let it go! At that time none of the rest of them even knew that Dean had apologized or the meeting would have been stopped according to my brother.

The next week that congregation was put through turmoil. Mom said my brother walked around with a face as white as a ghost. Brother Dino would call, then a Deacon, then an Elder and back and forth it would go. In the end Brother Dino lost his job....why couldn't he have just listened to my Mother the voice of reason.....Turn the Other Cheek....don't get caught up in your feelings and sit and stew. Of course he was humiliated, he got slapped but he was also the shepherd who needed to show love, compassion, and forgiveness for his lamb.

I told this to Carlos that Saturday after speaking with my Mom and the very next Sunday Brother Bob started his message by telling a story about a congregation where a Pastor and a Deacon got in such a fight that they one of them hit the other one with a chair! It was a good thing I was sitting down because my knees would have buckled. I thought was he listening to me? He went on to tell how Pastors could and would sometimes forget that they are accountable also and everything he said just convinced me more and more he had to be in on my conversation.....lol! I could not wait to tell my Mother because I knew she would be so excited....you see that was the confirmation. Their church had followed God's will....Brother Dino just needed a little reminder that's all...he is a wonderful man and will be a wonderful Pastor again. I am sure he will never forget what happened and will certainly Turn The Other Cheek the next time!

But to my surprise.....when I called my Mom and said you are not going to believe what happened! So I told her about how Brother Bob's message just so tied and could she just believe that? Her response well yes, I am not surprised at all. If he is a Godly man which I see he is by this... God will use him and that was that....lol! By the way when I shared it with Brother Bob he too said it happens to him all the time! Here he is 225 miles away from a congregation he doesn't even know yet his sermon was just like he was a member of it and knew what was happening at that time....I was amazed! Aren't we blessed to have him as our Pastor?

So Ladies.....rest up....the Gift of Love will be upon us before we know it!

Hugs

Rose