

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Matthew 10: 18-20

“You will even be brought before governors and kings because of Me, to bear witness to them and to the nations. But when they hand you over, don’t worry about how or what you should speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, because you are not speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you.”

I don’t know about you, but the possibility of my ever being called on by God to give witness of His glory before a governor is probably zero. My chances of speaking to a president or a king about anything are less than zero. That is just fine with me. I may not be in danger of being persecuted for witnessing to them, but I probably would feel just as threatened if I had to actually speak to them about anything, much less about God. Many of us feel much more comfortable sharing about God’s love through our actions than through our words. When Don and I were Baptists, we were encouraged to write out a brief testimony (5 minutes) about God’s touch on our lives. First of all, “brief” is not exactly my forte. Secondly, I couldn’t get past a feeling of being phony and pushy. For me, a prepared testimony doesn’t come off naturally. That’s why I love the above Scripture. It puts the pressure on God, not me.

When we lived in Hammond, New York (remember it was cow country personified), we had a beautiful friend, John. John and his wife and kids had moved from Syracuse to the little town next to us that we referred to as “Cave Man Country”. It is in the Appalachian foothills and the home of hippies who had moved away from the bigger cities to live off the land. We attended an interfaith Bible study with John and his family in the hills of Rossi. One day, John had to take his old dog to the local veterinarian, the only doctor within a three town area of many miles. John is a quiet, humble man. For some reason, Doc McAvoy started telling John that he didn’t believe in God. He had no need for Him. John just quietly turned to him and with a gentleness said, “When I look at the starry sky, I just cannot imagine anyone not believing in our loving God.” That’s all he said. Doc was so moved that he joined our Bible study. You never know when a simple, unplanned, heartfelt word might change someone’s heart.

Prayer: Dear Abba Father, precious Jesus, sweet Holy Spirit, thank You for all of the mysterious ways beyond our understanding that you quietly work in our hearts. Please help us to be willing to let You both work through us and speak through us with Your love. Help us to know that all the Holy Spirit desires is a loving, willing heart. He will do the rest. We thank You and love You. Amen

Jean Gleason