

It Takes Humility to Live in Community

(A continuation of last night's interaction with our guest, the self-proclaimed prophet...¹)

Mt 10:40-41 — If you receive a prophet you will receive a prophet's reward.

However, every tree is judged by its fruit.

Eph 4:2-3 — We have to go all the way down and humble ourselves in order to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. It takes *all lowliness and meekness*. It takes patience. That's the fruit of the Spirit. It requires self-restraint and self-control. It takes patience and mercy to live in community. Many places talk about how forbearance is required in order to bear up under the things we constantly encounter in this social atmosphere, the environment of community. Circumstances always happen. The more we endure suffering without growing bitter, the greater we become. You can't become perfect on an island, and community certainly is not an island.

Someone runs off with the car key you so desperately need. These things happen continually. We have to love one another regardless. We go through a developmental process and it requires all lowliness. Nothing positive will come out of these circumstances if we go through them without *all lowliness* (#5012). Doubt yourself. Don't have a higher estimation of yourself than you ought to have. You should esteem yourself small. You should have a realistic estimate of yourself (Phil 2:3). Estimate yourself by the love you have (1 Cor 13:1-8).

No one can be a good person unless he can live together with other human beings. It takes a village. It takes such an interaction to develop properly. It takes a community to be a true disciple. The circumstances we are faced with every day in community humble us. I don't like the way someone is with me, but then I do the same thing to others. That humbles me and makes me not want to get mad at my brother.

¹ See *Where Are You From?* (2005.08.14-P01)

No one can be good enough on his own to enter the kingdom of God. There are good people out in the world, however. They are worthy of eternal life in the nations. Although all have sinned, not all are evil. What do you think a person has a conscience for? Why else would it talk about the righteous in Rev 22:11? But there is no one among the fools that is good.

Fools are independent, lone rangers, always in arguments with others. They can't get along with other human beings. But disciples live in community. The one who says that he knows Him and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in Him (1 Jn 2:4). You can't obey His commandments outside of community.