

**#16 Fellow Travelers - continued**

**2 Timothy 4:1-14 NIV** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. <sup>9</sup> Do your best to come to me quickly, <sup>10</sup> for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. <sup>12</sup> I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup> When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. <sup>14</sup> Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. <sup>15</sup> You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. <sup>16</sup> At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Ideas to Ponder**

1. Even Jesus grew in relationships. (Luke 2:52)
2. Proverbs: “Friends, Foes, and Fools”
3. Ben Franklin’s perspective
4. Not a reminiscing of my life, but a heads-up concerning yours.
5. Our Goal is to end well.
6. This dynamic of fullness has three parts:
  - 1) Recognizing Fellow Travelers.

2) Finding your place in the Community.

3) Settling accounts along the way.

### **Fellow Travelers**

**Demas** - There will be some who desert you. (verse 10)

**Alexander** - There will be some who intentionally hurt you. (verses 14-15)

**Mark** - There will be some who fail you in time of great need, but with time, grace, and forgiveness, the relationship is able to be restored. (verse 11)

**Luke** - There will be some who, by the grace of God, never leave your side.

### **Last Week**

- Take a look at the Mixed Multitude.
- Assess your wounds, scars and stories.
- Invite the Holy Spirit for help.
- Enter His Therapy.

### **Today... Steps toward Recovery**

#### **Christian Life Lessons**

##### **1. We are responsible for our choices.**

- We must strike the balance between relationships that help and relationships that hurt.
- Living to please people is hopeless and fruitless.
- We don't have to take blame, but we do need to take responsibility.

**2. God has determined that we are to live “in community.” Our goal is to redeem and restore.**

- We must develop the grace to “Love your neighbor as your own self.”
- “Wounded in the House of My Friends”
- Nixon/Humphrey
- One another
- Galatians 6
- 1 Corinthians 3
- Regarding those who have mistreated treated you, follow David’s lead and let God settle the matter (the matter of Saul).
- “Lay down your differences. They are in my way.”
- Help me, Father, to love people as I work through these hurts.

**3. Each of us should evaluate and improve our communication skills.**

- Study and discover Love Languages.
- General MacArthur
- 60,000 shoes or 60,000 hairs
- Lay down your differences, they are in my way.

**4. Be thankful.**

- **Isaiah 41:11,12 NKJV** “Behold, all those who were incensed against you

Shall be ashamed and disgraced; they shall be as nothing, and those who strive with you shall perish. <sup>12</sup> You shall seek them and not find them—those who contended with you. Those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a nonexistent thing.

- Live life with extreme appreciation of those who stand by you.
- “I have been young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the Righteous forsaken, or his seed begging for bread.”

#### **5. Start the process.**

- Learn to apologize.
- Learn to forgive.
- Resist the tantalizing opportunities to wound.
- Don Rickles, Rodney Dangerfield, or Red Skelton

#### **6. If you are not happy, don't try to poison those who are.**

- This was Absalom's great sin. Things weren't perfect, but they loved David and believed he might be able to set things right.
- Don't be so brazen as to “cast the first stone.”

#### **7. Bottom Line - “But The Lord stood by me.”**