



Growing in the Truth – Sharing Our Lives

I walked into Costco the other day and practically had a full-course meal with all of the free samples of food they were giving away. I had a little taste of everything! When you think about it, this really is a clever marketing tool: introduce a product to customers by giving away free samples with the hope that the customer will like it and be lured into buying more. Sometimes, all it takes is a little taste.

We could easily look at our Christian faith in the same light. As believers, we share a “taste of Jesus” with everyone we encounter. It’s in the decisions we make, the language we use, our actions and reactions to situations, and in our relationships.

Not only do we share Jesus with strangers and non-believers, we share Him with our family, our friends, and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. It’s accomplished through being open, authentic, genuine and transparent. It’s learned through sharing our triumphs and struggles with one another. It’s realized through inviting correction and godly advice from fellow believers and through listening and observing how to respond to what life brings our way. It’s through our experiences and the sharing of these experiences that we learn and grow in the truth.

As believers, we’ve all had a “taste of Jesus,” and know the sweetness of His presence, and we should always be craving more. To ignite this passion, it’s important to share our lives with each other. Fellowship provides growth, belonging, encouragement, and accountability. During times of trial and affliction it becomes even more important to rely on the Lord and to have fellow believers spurring us on to do so. It’s through these relationships that we can be sharpened and strengthened to stay focused on the Lord. Don’t just settle for a “taste of Jesus” on Sundays, plug into a community of believers on a regular basis and let God fill your soul...I guarantee you’ll be craving more.

Scripture

Read Job 32:1-22, Job 34:3-4

Discovery Questions

1. In Job 34:3-4, Elihu is speaking to Job. What do I suppose he means by saying “the ear tests words?” He then says “let us learn together...” Recall a time when I learned more simply by listening and observing.

2. Proverbs 27:17 states that “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” Elihu helped Job become spiritually sharpened during a time of affliction. Recall a time when a fellow believer sharpened and encouraged me in the midst of a trial.
3. In 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Paul urges the church of Thessalonica to “...encourage one another and build each other up...” What does this verse mean to me? In what ways can I encourage and build others up?

Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

Prayer: Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- For words of encouragement that I may offer to others
- For the strength and humility to invite correction and seek godly advice
- For opportunities for me to share and fellowship with other believers
- Thank you Lord for the community of believers who spur me on and share life with me throughout the valleys and mountaintops of life