

A SCOOTER GOES MISSING

Have you ever had a conversation with someone that left you so frustrated that you just wanted to cry? Well, I just experienced one of those, and one sure way that I have found to deal with all that emotion, is to put pen to paper.

Betty (not her real name) is someone that I have been trying to bring to the Lord for some time. Anyway, Betty has been dealing with an ongoing issue with her next door neighbor, his 12-year old son, and their dog. One day, as Betty was leaving her house, the neighbor's gargantuan-sized dog ran up to her and nearly knocked her over. Then the dog started leaving super-sized fecal deposits on Betty's lawn, which she did not appreciate. When the dog charged Betty a second time, she yelled out to the neighbor's son "Get control of your dog or else!" Then she called the boy a not-so-nice name, which he promptly reported to his father. Then the father confronted Betty and threatened to "take her out". Whoa!!! Now I thought speech like that only happened in movies like "The Godfather". But no, it apparently occurs in Small Town, USA too.

So that's the backstory, which brings me to the Facetime conversation we had today. Betty explained that the 12-year old boy was doing little things to get back at her, like putting leaves on her car and knocking over her planters. Then she said that she wanted to tell me something and she really wanted to know my reaction. One day when the neighbor was not around, she stole the boy's scooter that he had left lying on the driveway, and put it in her hall closet! And she was grinning from ear to ear when she told me this. She said she was tickled to death with what she had done and that it felt great.

Well, I've got to say, that one left me speechless. I'm pretty sure my mouth was hanging open in disbelief on the Facetime video. Finally I said that stealing was not okay and that she needed to put the scooter back where she found it. I said "You're always talking about "karma". Well there is something similar in the Bible and it's the law of sowing and reaping. Meaning if you do bad stuff, there are bad consequences for you. And if you sow good stuff, then you will reap good consequences." And just because she didn't think anyone had seen what she did, God saw it. God sees everything. Nothing gets past Him. And one day she is going to stand before Him on the day of Judgment and account for everything she had done in this life, both good and bad. And she needed to repent and stop doing bad and start doing good.

Needless to say, that did not go over well. She said I needed to stop preaching to her and being so pious. And when did I become a preacher anyway? Then she abruptly ended the conversation.

Sometimes I feel like I live in an insane asylum where the crazies are in charge of the world. In the insane asylum, it's okay to steal from little boys and to take revenge on

them, but it's not okay to preach the Word of God. But weren't we warned this day would come in Isaiah where it says "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil"?

Scriptures

JOB 4:8 Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.

HOSEA 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

GALATIANS 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

ISAIAH 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

ROMANS 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

LEVITICUS 19:18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

LEVITICUS 19:11 'You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

MATTHEW 22:36 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment 39And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

MATTHEW 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."