

Forgive me, but I'm about to indulge and talk about two of my favorite things: (1. my Children, (2. the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Our younger daughters love to use Mom and Dad's cell phones to call and text their friends – Usually we receive them back nearly or completely drained of battery use (a completely different thought for another day) Karen and I were sitting in the family room last night after getting back from our “*date night*” and she told me the following story...

One of our girls (who will remain anonymous) was texting a new friend she has made just this year, who just moved to the Saratoga community and is new to the school. This young lady was texting our daughter about how she feels like she doesn't fit in, she's lonely, misses her old school with her old friends, feels “*left out*” and often “*invisible*” to the kids in her new school here in Saratoga Springs. My daughter texted back that she felt that way a lot last year when we moved them from the only school they've ever known to a new school in the middle of a school year – I mean, she totally sympathized with how this girl was feeling and all, but then the conversation took an unexpected and surprising turn...

See, instead of what I expected to read, like say, how hard, mean, it was to move and how she hated or still hates having moved, our daughter did the unexpected. She asked her new friend if she talked to God at all, if she looked to Him for strength, if she has ever gotten to know God in a personal way (now, these are my words, hers were in the language of a teenager – but nonetheless, that was the message) and it just blew both Karen and I away. Our daughter was witnessing and sharing God's love with her new found friend – I think that rocks!

My daughter then finished by saying something like, “*I hope I'm not being too preachy,*” (hey, she gets it honestly) and the girl replied, “*Yes you are being preachy, but that's okay...*” Did you get that? The girl did agree that my daughter was being a bit preachy, but because my daughter was taking an actual interest in that girl and what she was experiencing, she was open to hearing about Jesus!

And it dawned on me, “*What holds me back from sharing God's love to folks I'm getting to know? And why don't I do it more often?*” I think that's a great question for us all to ask. Let me be even a little bit more forward with that thought – Do you have anyone in your life right now that you're building a relationship with that needs you to be a little “*preachy*” with them about experiencing the love of God through Jesus Christ? If not, why not? If not you, then who? If not now, then when? The apostle Paul said this way...

*“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Romans 10:14-15)*

I think my daughter has beautiful feet – Not just because she's my daughter, but because when prompted by the Holy Spirit to engage in a God-conversation with someone, she said “*Yes!*” May it be true of every one of friend!

**Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...**

Christ **IS** All!

*Pastor Mark*