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RUNNING THE RACE WITH GRACE

A Kenyan runner, Abel Mutai, was just a few feet from the finish line, but became confused and stopped, thinking he had completed the race. A Spanish runner, Ivan Fernandez, was right behind him and, realizing what was happening, started shouting at the Kenyan to continue running. Mutai didn't know Spanish and didn't understand. Realizing what was taking place, Fernandez pushed Mutai to victory. A journalist asked Ivan, "Why did you do that?" Ivan replied, "My dream is that someday we can have a kind of community life where we push and help each other to win." The journalist insisted, "But why did you let the Kenyan win?" Ivan replied, "I didn't let him win, he was going to win. The race was his." The journalist insisted, and again asked, "But you could have won!" Ivan looked at him and

replied, "But what would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honor in that medal? What would my Mother think of that?" "Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules," 2 Tim. 2:5. In the spiritual race we are seeking to win (1 Cor. 9:24), let us remember the rules. We are not to run in such a way so as to pass others by as fast as possible so we can beat them across the finish line, but rather are to be helping to push others across. "We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone," 1 Thess. 5:14. "Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. Say to those with anxious heart, 'Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of

God will come, but He will save you," Is. 35:3-4. - Daniel Ruegg

How One Man Convinced 200 Ku Klux Klan Members To Give Up Their Robes

Daryl Davis is a blues musician, but he also has what some might call an interesting hobby. For the past 30 years, Davis, a black man, has spent time befriending members of the Ku Klux Klan. He says once a friendship is formed, the Klansmen begin to believe that their hate was misguided. Since Davis started talking with these members, he says 200 Klansmen have given up their robes. Whenever that would happen, Davis would add the robe to his collection which he keeps as a reminder of the dent he's made in racism simply by sitting down and having dinner with people. Davis would begin by having a conversation about their organization, earning their respect by showing how knowledgeable he was about them. According to Davis, "That began to chip away at their ideology because when two enemies are talking, they're not fighting. It's when the talking ceases that the ground becomes fertile for violence. If you spend five minutes with your worst enemy -- it doesn't have to be about race, it could be about anything...you will find that you both have something in

common. As you build upon those commonalities, you're forming a relationship and as you build about that relationship, you're forming a friendship. That's what would happen. I didn't convert anybody. They saw the light and converted themselves." What an amazing lesson can be learned from this man as we seek success in bringing the lost to Christ. How many opportunities could we gain to help educate and encourage others who are opposed to Christianity simply by befriending them and engaging in humble conversation. Jesus was able to teach a self-righteous Pharisee the needed principles of compassionate love for sinners simply by sharing a meal with him. "Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, 'If

this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ And he replied, ‘Say it, Teacher.’ ‘A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?’ Simon answered and said, ‘I suppose the one whom he forgave more.’ And He said to him, ‘You have judged correctly.’ Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.’ Then He said to her, ‘Your sins have been forgiven.’ Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, ‘Who is this man who even forgives sins?’ And He said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved

you; go in peace,’” Luke 7:36-50,
– Daniel Ruegg



“But I will leave among you a humble and lowly people, and they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong and tell no lies, nor will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths; for they will feed and lie down with no one to make them tremble. Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. The LORD your God is in your midst. A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.”
Zeph. 3:12-17

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up ____.

- a) Ghosts
- b) Anger
- c) Hunger
- d) Heartburn

2. The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the ____ and the good.

- a) Steelers
- b) Fidgety
- c) Shy
- d) Evil

3. A fool rejects His father's ____, but he who regards reproof is sensible.

- a) Discipline
- b) Jokes
- c) Fannypack
- d) Dance-moves

4. Better is a ____ with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and turmoil with it.

- a) Turtleneck
- b) Harmonica
- c) Swatch
- d) Little

5. Better is a dish of vegetables where love is than a fattened ox served with ____.

- a) Hatred
- b) Jello
- c) Noodles
- d) Pudding

6. A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to ____ calms a dispute.

- a) Jazzercise
- b) Somersault
- c) Breakdance
- d) Anger

7. A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his ____.

- a) Brother
- b) Uncle
- c) Mother
- d) Cousin

8. Without ____, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.

- a) Dwight
- b) Consultation
- c) Erasers
- d) Expert

9. The LORD will tear down the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the ____.

- a) Chrisagis Brothers
- b) Plumber
- c) Widow
- d) Flexible

10. The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes ____.

- a) Confusion
- b) Cookies
- c) Sleep
- d) Humility

- 7) C. Prov. 15:20
8) B. Prov. 15:22
9) C. Prov. 15:25
10) D. Prov. 15:33
1) B. Reference: Prov. 15:1
2) D. Reference: Prov. 15:3
3) A. Reference: Prov. 15:5
4) D. Reference: Prov. 15:16
5) A. Reference: Prov. 15:17
6) D. Reference: Prov. 15:18