

## Wounded! While Standing in Harm's Way!

By Richard Crisco

Make a correction to last weeks Message:

*Exo 19:24 The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you.*

*Exo 24:9-10 Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel.*

God loves to extend Mercy!

Therefore, as Ambassadors of Christ, we should be carriers of His Message and Mission! Not one of Condemnation but Reconciliation and Mercy!

*Jn 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

The Primary reason God warns is not so that we can run and hide, but so that we can stand and pray!

ONE righteous child of God  
can hold back judgment upon a City!

*Eze. 22: 30 "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap*

*on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.*

*1Co 5:5 hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord. ... 9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."*

*2Co 2:7 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.*

Song:

To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus  
All I ask to be like Him;  
All through life's journey  
From earth to glory  
All I ask to be like Him;

To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus  
All I ask to be like Him;

Not in a measure but in its fullness  
All I ask to be like Him.

*Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; he was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

It is impossible to become like Jesus  
without being wounded!

Since Wounds are inevitable in Warfare – We must learn to interpret those wounds in light of God’s promises and ability to reverse the effects of evil and turn them for good!

*Heb 5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*

Multitudes never counted the cost before picking up their cross and now lie wounded by offenses that come because of the very cross of their salvation!

*Mt 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*

*Act 9:16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."*

*Rev 2:3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.*

*Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

*Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

You cannot crucify yourself!  
Someone close to you must swing the hammer!

To be wounded while standing in harm’s way can cause great offense to us, especially since we were most likely expecting to be rewarded and admired for our good deeds!

Satan always seeks for ways to bring offense – thus destroying our ability to Lovingly Intercede (Or stand in harm’s way) for another!

You will never stand in harm’s way  
unless you Love what you are protecting!

*Jn 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

When Love wanes, the wounds received while standing in harm's way, will be infected by the gangrene of offense!

Maintaining Love and forgiveness in the midst of our suffering is the key to unlocking the power of redemption!

*Exo 34:6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.*

When wounded: we only have two options – we either become more like Christ and lovingly forgive, or we forever get stuck in the memory and agony of our wounded experience!

The Key to remaining Pure and Strong is the quickly forgive when you have been wounded!

Canon Goldsmith - page 36 "The Spirit of Christ"

*Isa. 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; he has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, he shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.*

When wounded, it need not turn into a disaster, but we have a golden opportunity to personify the Mercy

of Christ that will deter judgment and draw wayward ones to Repentance!

*Lk 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

Let me remind you that Jesus chose to go to hell for us rather than returning to heaven without us.

*Jn 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

We often quickly define these works to be the miracles that Jesus did. However, He did not limit His works to the miraculous. Jesus' works included living a Godly life among sinners, interceding for their sins, restoration of fellowship between God and man – He stood in Harm's way and Deterred Judgment!

And Because He now lives in us, we can do the same!!!!

When wounded, while standing in harm's way, we cannot forget our mission and begin to declare judgment – or cry out "foul play" but we must continue to intercede for mercy out of a Loving Heart!

*2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God*

The wounding experience exposes how much of self we have still retained and how little of His Nature we have obtained.

The greater the wounds – the louder we must cry out for mercy – and the purer our love becomes!

We will only allow ourselves to be wounded to the measure of our love!

*1Co 13:4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails.*