

## For The Rest of Our Lives

“It was HER fault, SHE started it!” I have no idea how many times I’ve said that to my dad and mom, but it was plenteous, I am sure. Of course every time I said that I still got in trouble; why? Because boys aren’t allowed to hit girls. I wish my dad would have said, “Don’t take things personally, just turn and walk away from her.” Maybe he did and I just didn’t listen; or maybe he did and I thought that was more than unfair. Whatever it was, my siblings and I fought and argued way too much!

I know that time changes us all, and the older I get I want to be more loving and forgiving of others. I have met too many people who hold grudges, who won’t forgive, and who have no relationship with parents and family. Many years ago I saw the movie, “Home Alone.” Some parts of the movie were very funny, but one subplot of the movie was the lonely old man who lived next door, who had no relationship with his daughter, her husband and his grandchildren. The lead character, the boy left at home, reasons with the old man to put away his pride, contact his daughter and put aside their differences. At the end of the movie that happens; oh, if only people could do that in real life. Time is too precious and life is too short to allow things to ruin our relationships!

As Jesus predicted, He was abandoned in the garden completely. He submitted to the injustices of the illegal trial, to suffering, to humiliation, to scourging, to the rejection by His own, and ultimately to His death. As He died, his cry was, “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing,” (Luke 23:34). All of this occurred for a relationship with us.

Often people give up when they are hurt, or when they feel an injustice has happened to them. But, this is precisely where Jesus does His best work. He seeks to forgive and renew; read John 21 again! Although abandoned by all twelve apostles, and denied by Peter three times, John chapter 21 is all about reconciliation – it is all about us. When you have failed; when I have denied; when we have hurt; Jesus calls us: “Follow Me,” He beckons. So we do; we ask to be forgiven; we also forgive; and we let go of sin for a relationship with God, for the rest of our lives.

With Love in Christ,

Larry Scarth