

PEOPLE NEED PEOPLE

Day 3: Bearing One Another's Burdens

New Scripture: *"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."* – Romans 12:15 (NIV)

Compassion builds community. We reflect Christ when we share in each other's joys and sorrows.

Devotional Thought:

One of the simplest and most powerful ways we can reflect the love of Jesus is to *be present* with others in both celebration and sorrow. The Apostle Paul's instruction to the Roman church wasn't about giving advice or fixing things—it was about **joining people in the emotional reality of their lives**. To *rejoice with those who rejoice* means we don't envy their success, but celebrate it as if it were our own. To *mourn with those who mourn* means we don't offer quick fixes or religious clichés—we offer our tears, our time, and our presence. That's the essence of burden-bearing.

Community doesn't erase pain, but it *shares the weight* of it. When we come alongside others in their darkest moments, we say: *"You're not alone. I see you. I feel this with you. I'm here."*

Jesus modeled this so well. When His friend Lazarus died, Jesus knew resurrection was coming—yet He still stopped and wept with Mary and Martha. He entered their grief before He fixed their situation. **That's love. That's empathy. That's how we fulfill the heart of Christ.**

Real Life Reflection:

Have you ever been overwhelmed with grief, only to have someone come and sit quietly beside you, without judgment or explanation? One of my friends did something similar for me. When we first met at the radio station

in Dothan. She worked in Sales and I worked On The Air. She would come down to my office and ask me if she could pray for me. I always thought it was weird. Like why is this woman invading my office every day and wanting to pray with me for me? Sometimes, it's not the words that bring comfort—it's the ministry of presence. My friends presence ended up being a sign from God. He knew times were tough for me and I needed someone to be present for me.

And on the flip side: Have you genuinely celebrated someone else's victory lately? Rejoicing with others when their life is going well—even when yours isn't—can be a true act of selfless love.

Action Step:

Think of someone going through something heavy—or someone who just received good news. Don't just say, *"I'm happy for you"* or *"I'm sorry."* Take one small step to enter into their moment: send a card, make a phone call, drop off coffee, or simply say, *"I'm with you in this."*

Prayer:

God, teach me to love people like You do. Give me a heart that slows down to see others, to sit with them in sorrow, and to celebrate with them in joy. Help me resist the urge to rush past people's pain or become envious of their blessings. Make me a faithful, present friend. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen.