

PEOPLE NEED PEOPLE

Day 4: When Community Hurts

Scripture: *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

– Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Even imperfect people need each other—and healing begins with forgiveness.

Devotional Thought:

Community is beautiful... but also messy. Relationships, no matter how strong or godly, are made up of flawed people with sharp edges, old wounds, misunderstandings, and unmet expectations. Sooner or later, **you will be hurt by someone you care about**, and you'll likely hurt someone too.

It's tempting to withdraw when we get wounded. We build emotional walls to protect ourselves. We say things like, *"I'm better off alone,"* or *"I can't trust anyone anymore."* But isolation is not healing—**it's a slow erosion of the soul.**

Paul's words to the Ephesians come not as a suggestion, but as a command: *Be kind. Be compassionate. Forgive.* Why? Because **this is what Jesus has done for us.** Christ forgave us when we didn't deserve it. He was kind when we were rebellious. He leaned in when we pulled away.

Forgiveness isn't easy—and it doesn't mean forgetting or excusing someone's behavior. What it does mean is releasing the right to get even. It means choosing to love and rebuild where the enemy wants to divide. If the enemy can divide God's people, he can weaken their witness. But when we choose forgiveness, humility, and grace, **we shine a light that**

draws others to Jesus. We reflect the gospel most clearly not when we get everything right, but when we walk through relational messiness with love and mercy.

Real Life Reflection:

Has someone in your circle hurt or disappointed you? Maybe it was unintentional. Maybe they never apologized. Maybe they never even knew how deeply they wounded you. The pain is real—but so is the power of forgiveness.

You don't have to feel ready to forgive in order to begin. **Start by asking God to soften your heart.** Then trust Him to walk you through the process. And if you've wronged someone? Take the courageous step to make it right.

Action Step:

Think of a relationship in your life that's been strained, broken, or distant because of hurt. Ask God to show you the first step toward healing—whether it's praying for that person, sending a message, or simply forgiving them in your heart. You may not be able to fix everything today, but you can move one step closer to restoration.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the unending forgiveness You offer me. You've never turned me away in my failure. Help me to extend that same grace to others. Heal the broken places in my heart caused by wounded relationships. Give me the strength to forgive, the humility to apologize, and the wisdom to know when and how to rebuild trust. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen