

**QUIET TIME GUIDE**  
**FOR Monday 7/28/08**  
**FROM David Brown**

**Greeting:**

On this past Friday, I had the privilege of meeting a young man who was in the Adult Detention Center in St. John's County. I was nervous about this visit. Honestly, I didn't exactly know what to expect when I got there. This was my first visit of this kind. As I pulled up to the detention center, stepped out of my car, walked towards the facility, entered the door, and walked down the hall, I kept saying to myself, "what can I say to someone who is in this situation". What can I say to some one that's facing the possibility of spending the next few years of their life behind bars? I was feeling extremely inadequate and nervous about a one on one conversation with this young man. However, God just kept telling me to let him know that HE was here for this young man, and that HE was in control of this young man's situation. As I sat and talked with him, I began to hear the Father say to me, "David, there is nothing different between this young man and you". I realized, in a way, a new depth of understanding of how much the grace of God is needed in each of our heart's and lives. God spoke to me that day and I saw that God loved each of us the same. He had the same plan and purposes for each of our life.

See, this young man was in this situation because he was hooked on a controlled substance so bad it led him to sell the very same thing that he was addicted to, in order for him to have the money to feed his addiction. His father had even overdosed years earlier on a controlled substance. As I looked into this young man's heart, I was broken inside for him. Why??? Because, I knew that he had turned to drugs to help meet a void in his life. The drugs were a way to help him enjoy life. He didn't want to escape from life he said, "But I took the drugs in order to enjoy life". I was broken to see how his young man, much like me in many ways, was now facing the possibility of having his freedom taken away from him for the next several years. This came about all because of an addiction to feel a void that overcame him and was caught trying to fill this void.

I walked away with much from this visit that I did not expect. I walked away knowing that in God's economy we need him the same. We need him like the very next breath we breathe, and the next heart beat we beat. We need him to come in to our lives and meet our every need. We don't realize many time's that Jesus is all we need until he is all we have. That day I talked with a young man that had nothing to hold on but Jesus. He said to me... "God is the only thing that kept me through being in this place..." "I know that God has me in here to help break this addiction and be healed". I sat there and saw a heart that Jesus came to heal and a life to be put back together again. I realize now the grace of God is much deeper than a theological idea. It is the very life source that enables each of us to live the life that God gives to each of us who trust in his name.

**Scripture for today:**

***Luke 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."***

*Matthew 11:5 “The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.”*

**Life Application:**

There are so many people in the world, who go from one thing to another in search of meeting a void. I wonder could you be apart of what God does in order to bring hope to the hopeless, and love to the unloved, and the gospel to the poor. Jesus came in this world so that the lame would walk, the deaf would hear, and the blind would see. What actions, ministries, relationships could God be leading you to be apart of?

**Spiritual exercise:**

We have a lot of new ministries that our starting in our church. I would love for us to help support them by being committed to the idea that each of us is need of God just as much as the other person who’s walking this life together next to us. I would love to see the day that walls that divide us our broken down in the church in America. And that the love of Jesus Christ, as Paul said would rule in our hearts. May God bless you this week as you search out those who are trying to feel a void by going from one thing to another in search of the ability to cope with life. Tell someone about the love of Jesus. And more importantly, show them love by coming along side of them and holding them up where they are weak. I am praying for each of you this week. I really believe in each of you and I know this church will change this community for Christ!

**Thought for the day.**

“We don’t realize that God is all we need until he is all that we have”