

Saturday - March 9

"A dispute arose among the disciples as to which of them was considered to be the greatest."

Luke 22:24

In this passage, Jesus did not answer the disciples as to which of them was the greatest or more beloved, he instead answered that the greatest should be like the youngest, the rulers like the servers, and so on. He didn't pick sides he didn't choose, he loved them all. He chose them all.

So many times we get caught up in our differences, in our opinions in our beliefs of what is right or wrong. The issues are local and global. The issues become for some, life or death. We invalidate others who speak, look, think or act differently. We label ourselves or one another as "conservative", "liberal", "clueless", "opinionated" and yet in the midst we forget the one binding element for all of us is humankind. We forget love. Jesus showed it to us in the form of grace...in the form of mercy...in the form of forgiveness...in the form of sacrifice.

He showed us in so many ways, yet we struggle with the challenge of loving one another with no strings attached. Our judgment of others comes much more readily to us than our forgiveness or acceptance of others. God blesses each of us with "free will" and sometimes we use it to offer much less love than we could.

Sometimes strong feelings happen so quickly, it's hard to remember we have a choice in directing or reacting to those feelings. Yet, in the midst of our bad decisions, our harsh judgment and our missed opportunities, there our God full of grace remains...loving us...choosing us.

Dana

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for loving me unconditionally, just as I am. Today let me practice your love. Let me choose to love all of my brothers and sisters in the way that Jesus lived. In His name, Amen.