

that? Even sinners will lend to their own kind for a full return. Love your enemies! Do good to them! Lend to them! And don't be concerned that they might not repay. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to the unthankful and to those who are wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. NLT

♦ **How do _____ do this?**

Hebrews 12:2-3 & 12-13 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven. Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up. NLT

CHALLENGE

Hebrews 12:12-13 So take a new grip with your tired hands and stand firm on your shaky legs. Mark out a straight path for your feet. NLT

CLOSING PROMISE

1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. All power is his forever and ever. Amen. NLT

CLOSING PRAYER

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

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STANDING WITH THE TRUTH

“NEVER BE AFRAID TO TAKE A HIT”

2 Corinthians 13:8

♦ **No _____ : No _____**

Mark 8:34-37 Then he called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. If any of you wants to be my follower, he told them, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life.” NLT

♦ **Is there anything that you would _____ for?**

Never be afraid to take a hit ...

#1 For _____ up for what is RIGHT

2 Corinthians 13:8 Our responsibility is never to oppose the truth, but to stand for the truth at all times. NLT

♦ **What is “ _____ ” ?**

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. NLT

Daniel 3:13-18 Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought before him. When they were brought in, Nebuchadnezzar said to them, Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? I will give you one more chance. If you bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments, all will be well. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. What god will be able to rescue you from my power then? NLT

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He

will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, Your Majesty can be sure that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up. NLT

#2 To live out a chosen _____

♦ A "Life Value" is a _____

Daniel 6:6-17 Give orders that for the next thirty days anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human — except to Your Majesty — will be thrown to the lions...But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. The officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. So they went back to the king and reminded him about his law...Then they told the king, That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is paying no attention to you or your law. He still prays to his God three times a day...So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, May your God, whom you worship continually, rescue you. A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel from the lions. NLT

Romans 14:1-6 Accept Christians who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. For instance, one person believes it is all right to eat anything. But another believer who has a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. Those who think it is all right to eat anything must not look down on those who won't. And those who won't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. Who are you to condemn God's servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him tell them whether they are right or wrong. NLT

♦ Of Putting _____ to Use

"Sometimes it is good for us to have troubles and hardships, for they often call us back to our own hearts. Sometimes it is good that we put up with people speaking against us, and sometimes it is good that we be thought of

as bad and flawed, even when we do good things and have good intentions. Such troubles are often aids to humility, and they protect us from pride. We are sometimes better at seeking God when people have nothing but bad things to say about us and when they refuse to give us credit for the good things we have done! We should so root ourselves in God that we do not need to look for comfort anywhere else." ~ Thomas A' Kempis

Jesus' _____.

Luke 18:29-30 I assure you, everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, will be repaid many times over in this life, as well as receiving eternal life in the world to come. NLT

Challenge

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Be on guard. Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong. And everything you do must be done with love. NLT

#3 To _____ someone in need.

♦ Taking the _____ that is intended for someone else.

1 John 3:16-20 We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters. But if anyone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help — how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions. It is by our actions that we know we are living in the truth...NLT

Luke 6:27-36 But if you are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other cheek...Do for others as you would like them to do for you. Do you think you deserve credit merely for loving those who love you? Even the sinners do that! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, is that so wonderful? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, what good is