

Tuesday, September 22nd at Mercury Court Apartment Bible Study

I often get asked what do I do at the Bible study at Mercury Court. And really I don't "do" a whole lot. I may help put food out, talk with our residents who come to hear the Bible study, greet new people, and joke and encourage our regular attendees. I come to fellowship, it is like "church" in a very basic way, I come to learn, to laugh, and to love on the folks that attend. Today we ate lunch together and studied Acts chapter 16 and the original New Testament church.

One of our regular attendee's for the past couple of months is Louise Burrows. She brings her granddaughters Zoie who is 3 and Addie who is 1 each week. Over the past few times I have watched her get more involved in class and ask questions, I've often wondered if she was a believer but God didn't open that door until today.

Today while Richard was leading us in the book of Acts, she asked a question and ended with, "that is what I was asking the Lord last night, I wanted to know if I was a real Christian. What you said just confirmed that for me. I can't believe the coincidence of you talking about that today." I remember thinking, "I don't believe in coincidences, just God's divine appointments." I remember thinking that I need to say something to Richard to talk with her after Bible study, God was showing me that she was not a real believer, and of course doing the natural thing I wanted to pass on that revelation to him that *he* needed to talk with her. After Bible study I forgot.

As I was leaving, I drove past her pushing her grandchildren in their stroller. This was unusual and the only time I have ever seen her near the front gate. I pulled over by God's prompting, after all, I have been in her shoes, I once asked God, the Maker of the Universe where was I going after I died and the response I got was not the one I wanted to hear. I had lots of unanswered questions once upon a lifetime ago before I was saved and God gave me someone to answer them in His timing. What if God wanted me to be a part of His timing today?

So I rolled down my window and asked her about her question in class, "Did you get your question answered in class today?" Ms. Louise said, "Well yes and no, I wanted to know if I was a real Christian but the lesson today showed me that I am not." Wow. There it is, simple and in front of me. A God opportunity, an open door, now for the obedience. So I asked her if she would like me to pull over and help her make her commitment real by using the Bible as our guide. I pulled over to a big, mature shade tree. Ms. Louise, Zoie, Addie and myself sitting under a shade tree in a parking lot as we went over who Jesus is to her and the other five Share Jesus Without Fear Questions. We then went through the seven verses in the New Testament, she read each one and with chocolate cookie stains in my New Testament to prove it courtesy of baby Addie, she read each verse as we talked about what it meant. There it is, simple and in front of the whole world to see who Jesus is, what He has done for each and every one of us, and that it is our choice in life to accept the gift or deny it. So with grandbabies, sticky fingers, wind blowing and hand holding we prayed together, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior, and God gets to be glorified.

She said afterwards, how much reading those verses meant to her, how she wants to change because she is tired of living for the devil and wants God to clean up her life. She wants her granddaughters to have hope and a future, she has a total of 8 grandchildren. We talked on some more. She needs help to be set free from alcohol and cigarettes. She wants to be baptized and washed clean but now knows that she is and always will be a child of the Most High God. God is so good! -Shahe



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