

THE CITY #4

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***“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’^[a] ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”* Matthew 5:38-42 NIV**

AS FOLLOWERS WE _____.

AS FOLLOWERS WE _____.

AS FOLLOWERS WE _____.

AS FOLLOWERS WE _____.

GOD SAYS “THE ACTIONS OF MY PEOPLE LET OTHERS KNOW...”

***“They were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest. But Jesus intervened: “Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. It’s not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant. Who would you rather be: the one who eats the dinner or the one who serves the dinner? You’d rather eat and be served, right? But I’ve taken my place among you as the one who serves.”* Luke 22:24-27 MSG**

IN MY CITY ... EVERYONE I MEET IS CARRYING A BURDEN JESUS WANTS TO LIFT

***“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”* Matthew 11:28-30 MSG**

BURDEN _____.

BURDENS _____.

BURDENS _____.

BURDENS _____.

***“Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day’s out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ’s law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.”* Galatians 6:1-3 MSG**

GOD SAYS REDUCING LOADS IS ...

IN MY CITY ... THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS ME REDUCE THE LOADS OF OTHERS

BY _____.

“When we arrived in Macedonia province, we couldn’t settle down. The fights in the church and the fears in our hearts kept us on pins and needles. We couldn’t relax because we didn’t know how it would turn out. Then the God who lifts up the downcast lifted our heads and our hearts with the arrival of Titus.”

2 CORINTHIANS 7:5-6 MSG

BY _____.

The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind! They didn’t even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, “That’s mine; you can’t have it.” They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them.

Acts 4:32-33 MSG

BY _____.

“God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.” Ephesians 6:17-18 MSG

BY _____.

“But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is.” Acts 16:13 MSG

“So now you can pick out what’s true and fair, find all the good trails! Lady Wisdom will be your close friend, and Brother Knowledge your pleasant companion. Good Sense will scout ahead for danger, insight will keep an eye out for you. They’ll keep you from making wrong turns, or following the bad directions of those who are lost themselves and can’t tell a trail from a tumbleweed, these losers who make a game of evil and throw parties to celebrate perversity, traveling paths that go nowhere, wandering in a maze of detours and dead ends.” Proverbs 2:9-15 MSG

SPIRIT EMPOWERED MEN THE LOADS OF OTHERS IN THEIR CITY

“Widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food...They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.” Acts 6:1,5-7 NIV

FOR DISCUSSION:

WHY DO YOU THINK THE CALL TO BE UNUSUALLY UNSELFISH BY JESUS RESONATES WITH PEOPLE?

WHAT BURDENS DO YOU PERSONALLY SEE PEOPLE CARRYING THAT YOU COULD REDUCE?

WHICH STRATEGY OF REDUCING BURDENS HITS THE MARK IN YOUR WORLD?

WHAT ISSUE IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR CITY COULD USE A TEAM OF GOD'S MEN RIGHT NOW?