THE ADVICE

Exodus 18:9-23 (ESV)

- So far we have seen the Lord provide miraculously for His people time and time again
  - We saw Him free them from slavery in Egypt by sending the 10 plagues that effected the Egyptians, but not them
  - He parted the Red Sea— and saved them from Pharaoh's army
  - He provided them sweet water to drink in the wilderness
  - Provided them bread to eat in the morning, and quail in the evening
  - He then provided water from the rock
- And in one part of chapter 17 that we did not get to last week—we see Amalek send an attack against Israel, and Moses stands on the top of the hill raising the staff in the air
  - While his hands were lifted, the people of Israel (led by Joshua) would prevail, but whenever his arms would lower the would start losing the battle
  - *But you try holding a staff above your head for hours! No matter how light it may be, your arms are going to get tired*
  - And Moses cannot do this by himself! So they get him a stone to sit on —and Aaron and Hur get on each side and hold his arms up for him so the staff of God could remain raised and Joshua would win the battle
- But it just goes to show—that sometimes we need people in our lives to prop us up, don't we?
  - It's a need that all of us have, especially in the times when we don't recognize how much we need it—and this is what we are going to see in our passage today.
- When we get Exodus chapter 18, Moses is finally getting to be reunited with his family for the first time in months

- ***“Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people, how the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt. Now Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had taken Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her home, along with her two sons…” -Exodus 18:1-3 (ESV)***
- So it seems Moses decided it best for his wife and kids not to come with them into Egypt— probably because he knew it was going to be dangerous, but also because he had had a falling out with his wife in chapter 4.
- It’s a strange story, that we didn’t cover earlier — but it is a very odd situation whenever Moses was making his way toward Egypt to confront Pharaoh as the Lord commanded, after his encounter at the burning bush.
- Along the way, the bible oddly says, that one night at the campsite, the Lord confronted Moses and intended to put him to death!
  - Whoa! Why in the world, after He called Moses to go to back to Egypt, and now that Moses was obeying, would God want to all of the sudden kill him now??
  - And the Lord only relented, after Zipporah, Moses’ wife, circumcised her son!
- Most commentators agree that in that passage, God was calling Moses to be the leader for His people— but Moses was not setting a complete example because part of God’s covenant with Abraham was that all of the male children were to be circumcised.
  - The circumcision was supposed to be a sign of new life, new identity, a sign of the covenant between God and His people — it was one of the things that separated them from all of the other nations in the world.
  - But that wasn’t really a part of Moses’ wife culture and her family— so that isn’t something that they had done with their son.

- So Moses could not be a part of leading God's people if he was not first setting the example and being obedient to God in his own home.
  - *Partial obedience is still disobedience*
- So it seems that Moses wasn't going to do it, so Zipporah took matters into her own hands and she wasn't happy about it.
  - She literally yells at him and says, "YOU ARE A BRIDEGROOM OF BLOOD TO ME!"
  - And that is probably the time when Moses feels that she needs some space—and her and the kids stay back in Midian with her family for a while and they could meet up after Moses gets the people of Israel safely out of Egypt.
  - Very strange story, but nevertheless, it leads us to where we are now
- When we get to chapter 18— Jethro sends word that he is coming to visit, and he's bringing Moses' wife and kids with him
- So Moses is excited to get his family back, and he is excited to share with his father in law, all that God had done since he had been separated from his family.
  - He goes out to meet Jethro and tell him everything that has happened in Egypt, with the Red Sea, how the Lord has provided for them in the wilderness!
- And verse 9 says: ***"And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the Lord had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians. Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people." And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all***

the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

- ***The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.***
- ***Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. And let them judge the people at all times.***
- ***Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace." So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of***

fifties, and of tens. And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country. -Exodus 18: 9-24 (ESV)

- PRAY
- *Early on in my years of ministry, whenever I was still the youth pastor, I was not a very good leader, especially whenever it came to leading interns. I finally was able to realize this about myself when I had an intern one summer whose name was Kevyn. And Kevyn was able to teach me more about myself and areas that I needed to grow than he probably ever knew.*
- *Kevyn's time that he served as my intern helped me grow so much as a pastor and as a person in general, because I didn't realize it at the time, but all I was doing with my interns up to that point, was trying to turn them into Little Kenny-Clones.*
    - *All I was doing was trying to make them think and operate just like me, instead of recognizing that God had made and wired them differently than me and He had given them different talents, perspectives, strengths and weaknesses than I had, and I wasn't letting them grow in how God had made them, I was just unintentionally trying to make them like me.*
    - *However, Kevyn was the type of guy that no one can change who he is. In a good way— Whenever you are with Kevyn, you are going to get the pure unadulterated Kevyn and that is never going to change. And that is so refreshing in this day and age.*
- *And throughout his time as an intern I began to realize that I didn't need him to be Kenny, he needed to be Kevyn— and he was good at a lot of things that I wasn't good at.*
    - *Kevyn was really good in small group settings —I was horrible in small group settings, because believe it or not, when I'm in a small*

group I just end up preaching at people and they don't get to talk and it doesn't help anyone.

- *Another aspect he was great at was games. I hated games, I was annoyed with the games, I thought they were all corny and a waste of time. But Kevyn was great at them! And he would come up with the most ridiculous games for the youth to play.*
  - *I remember we were planning summer camp one summer and he was coming up with the games, and for ONE game, he came to me with a shopping list to get approved and he says—"Ok, we're going to need, 3 bags of flour, 10 lbs. of gummy bears, 6 hula-hoops, some Vaseline, a garden hose, 5 tricycles, 4 tubs of ice cream and all the whipped cream that we can find!"* …
- *And I thought, this is the dumbest idea I have ever heard…—but it may have been the first time I got over myself and said, "You know what—I hate everything about this idea, but that might mean that it's gonna be great."*
  - *And you know what? It was, that game was the students favorite part of the the entire summer camp!*
- And that summer began to change the way I thought, the way I viewed ministry, and how I would intentionally surround myself with the people that I do.
- Because we need people in our lives who are different than us. We need people in our lives who have the same values, understand our heart, have similar goals, but think differently.
  - *We need people in our lives who are going to love us and challenge us at the same time.*
- And this is why I love this passage in Exodus 18, because, most commentators would say that this is mainly a transitional chapter in the Exodus story— but it is chalked full with practical relational advice that we can benefit from in our families, our professions, our

friendships, and in all of our relational lives in general.

- <u>Jethro came to Moses at the perfect time. Because Moses needed some practical advice in his life.</u>
  - Now, Moses was used to being questioned, and having his leadership critiqued all of the time— but the way that Jethro comes to Moses and interacts with him, sets Moses up to be able to willingly hear and take his advice.
- You see Jethro, didn't come to critique, combat, or evaluate Moses—he came to celebrate with Moses.
  - Verse, 1 says that Jethro had heard all about what was happening with Moses and the Israelites and he wanted to go check it out for himself.
- And then Moses tells him even more first-hand details and verse 9 says that Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the Lord had done
- Then in verse 10 in the NLT he says, ***"Praise the Lord," Jethro said, "for He has rescued you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh. Yes, He has rescued Israel from the powerful hand of Egypt! <u>I know now that the Lord is greater than all other gods</u>, because He rescued His people from the oppression of the proud Egyptians. Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God."***
  -Exodus 18: 10-12 (NLT)
- Here's ur first point for us today:
- **YOU NEED PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THAT ARE PROUD OF YOU, BUT PRAISE GOD**
- Its safe to say that Jethro was proud of his son-in-law—what was going on was a big deal and Moses was a big part of it. And the entire known world is getting to hear about what happened in Egypt.
- However, it's an even bigger deal that Jethro is praising God for it!

- You see, the passage tells us that Jethro was a Midianite Priest. Priest of what exactly? I'm not sure, but he wasn't a priest of God.
- It was most likely a plethora of pagan gods that he served as a priest for.

- And there is a lot of speculation around whether or not he was a convert, however, to me, *"I know now that the Lord is greater than all other gods,"* sure sounds like a statement of faith to me!
  - And it's so cool to see him, not just praising God with his mouth, but also participating in the burnt offerings, sacrifices, and worshipping God.
- He was proud of Moses, but knew exactly where the credit really lied and Who really deserved the glory.
  - And we need people like that in our lives!
- Jesus told us ***"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." -Matthew 5:16 (ESV)***
- There's nothing wrong with people seeing our good works and being proud of us—and we should want to live our lives in such a way that will make the people around us proud, however, it's imperative that the people around us know Who gets the glory.
  - AND IT'S NOT US. And this is important because it's very easy for us to be incredibly blessed by God— where He will put us in positions to accomplish some great things in this life, and for us to look back on it all and say, "*Look at what WE did*."
  - And instead of being filled with gratitude of how God has blessed us, we'll start to think that we deserve some recognition and we'll start to crave the glory that only God deserves
- There is nothing in this life that we can accomplish that God hasn't given us the ability to do

- *He's the one who lets us get out of bed in the morning and breath air*
- *If we handle a situation wisely: Prov 2:6 says that "The Lord Gives Wisdom."*
- *If we show courage in a difficult situation: Prov 20:24 says, "Even a courageous person's steps are determined by the Lord"*

- He Get's all the Glory, He get's all the credit… but in our natural selfish human nature, we desire the recognition and that is something we have to intentionally battle!
  - That's why we need people in our lives that will be proud of the work that God is doing in and through our lives—recognizing the steps that we are making in our walk of faith and the impact we are having around us
  - But at the same time —remind us Who get's all of the credit, glory, and praise for it!
- That's what we see from Jethro— we see that he is celebrating with Moses about all that God has done in and through him and what He has done for the people of Israel
  - *And his response wasn't to flatter Moses, but rather to praise and Worship God WITH Moses.*
- And so Jethro, hangs around a little bit longer and he gets some insight into the day-to-day operation for Moses and he notices something that's a bit off
  - He notices that Moses is gone literally from sun up to sun down, dealing with every single problem and dispute that ALL of the people have.
  - Now Jethro has a little more life experience than Moses does and feels as if he can speak into the situation.
- And this is another point that I see from Jethro, and that is that:
- **YOU NEED PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THAT CARE ENOUGH ABOUT YOU TO QUESTION YOU**

- Now that word CARE is vastly important here
- *<u>We don't need to surround ourselves with Critical People, we need to surround ourselves with Caring People</u>*
- And like the famous phrase says, "No one cares what you know until they know that you care."
- And Moses has had all kinds of critical people questioning him, but I'm willing to bet not many people were taking the time to intentionally care about him
- They would rather combat him and and complain about him without appreciating the amount of responsibly that he has on his shoulders

- We see from verse 7 that Moses and Jethro genuinely care about each other, they ask each other how they have been and then go into the tent to talk, and Jethro shows genuine care and interest in all that had been going on in Moses' life.
- And now, whenever he sees something that could use correcting, he handles this conversation so wisely.
- He doesn't come in and automatically tell Moses what he needs to be doing, he first seeks to understand the situation.

- In verse 14 we see, ***"When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "<u>What is this</u> that you are doing for the people? <u>Why do you</u> sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" -Exodus 18:14 (ESV)***
- He gives Moses an opportunity talk this through out loud. He wants to see what Moses' perspective is on the situation first, before he offers advice.
  - *He's starting a conversation, not an interrogation.*
  - *He's offering a suggestion, not giving a lecture*

- And this is something I have struggled with a lot myself. And I think a lot of men do as well. Because I am prone to see a problem, and just go straight into problem solving mode and tell people how to fix it.
  - *For you ladies who were at our Women's conference this year—when Avery Young was new to her position with our youth back in Shelby, I had just recently moved out of that role so I had a lot more experience than she did at the time*
  - *And one day, I over hear her and some of the leaders discussing an issue with the students, and after the dispersed I went into her office and said, "Hey, I heard the problem—just do this, this, and this and it'll all be fine"*
  - *Then I walked out, and took maybe 5 steps from her office and stopped—I turned around and I went back into her office and said, "That wasn't very helpful was it?"*
  - *She said, "Nope"—and then we sat and had a conversation*
- *And that's something that I have been trying to work on ever since, I'm trying to be better about it, especially in my marriage…and I know I NEED to be because, Proverbs 18:13 says*, ***"The one who gives an answer before he listens — this is foolishness and disgrace for him." -Proverbs 18:13 (ESV)***
  - *Think about it: how often do you ask the question, but not hear the answer at all because you are just waiting for the person to be done talking so you can give your input*
- Jethro listens to Moses first…he asks, what is this you're doing? Why are you doing the things the way you do them? Let me understand why you think the way that you do…and he let's Moses respond in verse 15:
- ***"And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one***

person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." -Exodus 18:15-16 (ESV)

- These are good things! Good things that he is helping the people with!

- There no doubt in my mind that his heart was in the right place and he was trying to do the right thing the best way he knew how, but his plan was off base
  - *He had the right mission, but he had the wrong method.*
  - *He had the right heart, with the wrong perspective*
- And we need people in our lives that are able to help us recognize that when we need it.
  - We need people that know our heart and appreciate what we're trying to do, but still care enough about us to question our methods whenever we need it.
- Also—side note—this is why: ***it is good to have people in our lives that aren't easily impressed with us***.
  - It could have been very easy for Jethro, to just get all impressed with Moses, because he was literally mediating between God and the people—he has all of this responsibility, all of this leadership, and has already accomplished so much.
  - But if Jethro were overly impressed with Moses, he would never have spoken into the situation and been able to help
- Now, there is nothing wrong with people being impressed with us, just like there is nothing wrong with people being proud of us
- But we have a tendency to get caught up desiring to impress people so much —that we won't let them help us when we need it
  - Because too often we seek approval more than we do advice

- And in doing so, we only tell people what we think will impress them about our lives — rather than just being genuinely honest about some struggles we may be having
- And whenever we get too caught up on gaining someone's approval more than a genuine relationship— all we will do is get defensive and upset whenever someone offers gentle advice —because we'll take it as a slight rather than genuine care.

- So we need people in our lives that will look past the flowery picture that we attempt to show, and understand that they care enough about us to take a deeper look and speak into our situations
- The book of proverbs says it this way, ***"Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." -Proverbs 27:6 (NKJV)***
  - One translation says, "The slap of a friend can be trusted!"
  - Do you have someone in your life that can give you a slap when you need it?? Someone who cares enough about you to wound your ego for your own good??
- Now there's a chance that Moses' ego could take a shot whenever Jethro speaks into his situation— but Jethro still shows his care first and foremost before he offers his practical advice.
  - So he asks Moses' perspective first, allows Moses to respond second…and *<u>then</u>* he speaks into the situation.
- He says in verse 17, ***"What you are doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone." -Exodus 18:17-18 (ESV)***
- It's like Jethro is saying, *"Look, I care too much about you and your people to not say anything. I have to say something, not because I want to feel smart, but because I CARE about <u>your</u> well-being."*

- So Jethro showed care by seeking to understand the situation, he showed care for the well being of Moses and the people, and then he shows his care by offering a suggestion.
  - And he does so with soft language, he doesn't appear to be adamant that he thinks he has all the answers—he's giving Moses something to think through.
- In the NLT, Jethro says, ***"Now listen to me, and let me give you a word of advice, and may God be with you. … If you follow this advice, and if God commands you to do so, then you will be able to endure the pressures, and all these people will go home in peace." -Exodus 18:19, 23 (NLT)***
- I love how Jethro, keeps the perspective and focus on God. He says, *"Im gonna give you a word of advice, AND GOD BE WITH YOU…If you follow this advice, and more importantly, IF GOD DIRECTS YOU TO DO SO…this will work out."*
  - *You know what he didn't do? See a problem and say, "Well God told me to tell you…."*
  - *No, that's using God to point to you…not you pointing to God*
- And this leads to my last point for today…
- **YOU NEED PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THAT WILL OFFER ADVICE, BUT POINT YOU TO CHRIST**
- We have a lot of people around us today who love to tell people what to do…not out of care, but because they want to feel smart.
- And we need to keep this in mind for whenever we need to give someone some practical advice.
- *We need to understand that it is far less important that they listen to me, and far more important that they listen to God.*
- But it's a really good feeling, isn't it?? Whenever we are able to give good advice and then they follow our advice and then it works out!

- We feel like geniuses, we feel like we're one step closer to fixing all of the worlds problems if they would just listen to us!

- But what happens whenever you give some advice, and they follow your advice, and it turns out to be reallllly bad advice??
  - We tend to block those ones out —don't we??
  - We don't want THAT pressure, we don't want THAT responsibility.
- We want all of the credit if our advice pans out, but none of the responsibility if it doesn't
- It seems to me it's a lot safer, if we encourage people to seek the Lord, more so than just following our advice
  - And I would also hope that we seek the Lord ourselves before offering any life advice….proverbs says,
- ***"The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." -Proverbs 16:1-3 (ESV)***
- In everything we say, and everything that we do, we should be pointing to the Lord. It's hard to point someone to be committed to the Lord, if we're more committed to ourselves and our agendas than we are to Him.
  - Or if we're more committed to our opinions than His Actual Word
- So be intentional, the next time that you are going to offer some practical advice to someone keep it in perspective…
  - *"Hey, I want to offer some advice…but don't take my word for it, I could be wrong, so seek the Lord about this!"*
- <u>Because we don't just need people in our lives like this, we need to *BE* people like this for others as well</u>

- Some could be hearing these 3 points—thinking about having someone in your life that is proud of you, but praises God…someone who cares enough about you to question you….and someone who gives advice but points to Christ
  - And you could have few different reactions….you could think to yourself, "I don't have anyone like that….no one does that for me…." And feel sorry for yourself
- But I GUARANTEE you, if you pray for people like that in your life, and seek them out, the Lord will surround you with people that have the qualities that you need to keep you grounded and bear the burden of life with you
  - Moses didn't just need, Jethro, he needed to seek out a whole team that was going to bear the burden with him
- But Jethro's advice helped him build that team, he told him ***"Moreover, look for <u>able</u> men from all the people, men who <u>fear God</u>, who are <u>trustworthy</u> and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens." -Exodus 18:21 (ESV)***
- Simply put—he told Moses to LOOK FOR people who are reliable, God-fearing, and Honest.
  - You find someone with those 3 qualities, that's the type of person you want in your life
- So pray for people like that, look for people like that— and more importantly….BE a person like that for someone else
  - *<u>Whatever you want other people to be for you, be for other people</u>*
  - If *<u>you</u>* are a person that someone can rely on, it'll be much more likely that you'll find others in your life that can be relied on as well
- But also, some of us have an internal struggle with a sermon like this because deep down you don't really want people like that in your life because you don't really want to be help accountable.

- You don't want people challenging you,
- You don't want people questioning you,
- You want to do things your way and you don't want anyone else butting their nose in your business.
  - But that can lead to a very lonely life….

- Again, to quote one last proverb for today, ***"Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment." -Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)***
- One translation says, *"they care only about themselves and lash out against common sense."*
- Did you know— that you can be involved in church and around people all of the time and still be isolating yourself??
  - A way to keep yourself in check on this is— Whenever someone gives you practical advice or tries to speak into your life….Ask yourself: *"Is my first response to get mad and defensive? Or can I consider the possibly that this person might actually genuinely care about me?"*
- If there's one place in the world that we should be able to be completely open and honest— it's here, it's church!
- Whenever church becomes a place where we just show everyone what we think they want to see…we are no longer a church family, we are just a group of isolated individuals that happen to be in the same room
- That's why Paul told the Romans ***"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." -Romans 12:15 (ESV)***
- We should know what's going on in each other's lives! So that those in the church can bear the burdens when we're hurting, and praising God when we're doing awesome!
  - If we're struggling with something, we should be able to talk about it here!
  - If we've fallen into sin, we should be able to talk about it here!

  - If we have something we're embarrassed about we should be able to process it here!
  - When something good happens we should be able to celebrate it here!

- *We should be a group that's PROUD of each other, but PRAISES God*
- *We shouldn't be CRITICAL people, we should be CARING people that can QUESTION each other when we need it*
- *And we should always be pointing each other to Christ*
- Because at the end of the day, HE is the One who checks all of these boxes!
  - He is not going to Praise you, but He's proud of you
  - He is not impressed with you, but He care's so much about you
- And man, that should take so much weight off of our shoulders— because I see wayyyy too many Christians trying so hard to Impress God
  - We're struggling so much trying to do every little thing the right way, and then as soon as we mess up, we're completely defeated because we just can't do everything the right way all the time
  - And then we'll feel like we're disappointing God—so we just have to keep trying harder to impress Him so He'll be happy with us, but then we do something to disappoint Him again, and we just keep burying ourselves deeper and deeper
- But God knew, that was the Human condition. He knew there was nothing we could ever do to be good enough for God.
  - That's why He came to us. That's why He sent Jesus.
- *Because the reality is—The only thing that impresses God is His Son. That's why it's impossible to please God without faith because it's impossible to please God without Jesus*
- *And when we put our faith and trust in Jesus, Colossians says that we are then Hidden in*

<u>Him, so when God looks at you He doesn't see your sins, your faults, and your failures, He sees the completed work of Jesus and THAT is what pleases Him, THAT is what impresses Him</u>

- and THAT is what we should live every day celebrating. That He cared enough about you, to die for you.
  - *He said there was no greater love than this, that someone who lay down His life for His friends….and that's what He did for us!*
  - *And He rose up from the dead, and He gave us His Holy Spirit, and He told us as believers that we are to love each other, just as He loved us!*
  - *And the best way that we can do that, is if we are constantly celebrating Him first and foremost.*
- That's what we saw from Jethro…he came first and foremost, Celebrating God, and all that He had done.
- Worshipping God with Moses and recognizing His Greatness…and the advice that He eventually gave, flowed from THAT relationship.
- Every bit of advice that we may give each other, and every aspect of our human relationships should flow from a place of gratitude, worship, and celebration of Who JESUS is
- Only when He remains the Focal Point of Everything that we say, and Everything that we do, then and only then can we begin to be exactly what we need for each other.