

(Be)friending

LOVING GOD BY LOVING NEIGHBORS

Devotional - 10/01/2024

I'll lead with a confession—cookies are a bit of a weakness for me. And let me tell you, Erin makes *really* good cookies!

I'm hoping Erin doesn't see this, as she's far too humble to like me pointing out how the Lord has worked through her. But when I read today's passage, it reminds me of how Christ worked in our lives through something as small as Erin baking her amazing cookies.

At our first church, we lived in a parsonage in the middle of a parking lot. The church, once a megachurch, had bought up surrounding houses for parking, leaving one standing as the pastor's home. This 1940s house was right next to the basketball courts, where neighborhood guys often came to play.

Now, this wasn't your typical suburban scene. If you're familiar with South Garland, you know its reputation. Most folks would've preferred to avoid the crowd playing basketball. But one day, Erin baked cookies and, by Christ's grace, decided to take them—along with some water—to the guys playing ball.

At first, it was just a plate of cookies and bottles of water. But over time, her small act of kindness opened doors we never expected. The guys started talking to us. We got to know them. Some even came to church, and a few joined our small group Bible study. Erin's cookies became the beginning of something much greater—a plate of chocolate chip cookies turned into gospel opportunities.

Hebrews 13:15-16 tells us to continually offer a "sacrifice of praise"—not just with words, but through doing good and sharing with others.

In the grand scheme of things, cookies don't seem like much of a sacrifice. Erin was already baking them when the idea came! But who knows what the Lord will do when you plan to do good and share with others. Maybe that banana bread you're making is worth doubling. Or next time you're at HEB, grab an extra pack of snap-and-bake cookies to share.

God knows what He's doing. Maybe we just need to be faithful with what He's asked of us. Who knows? This week, you might just be able to worship the Lord... through cookies.