

Oh, Brother!

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**Oh, Brother!**

**By Joyce C. Lock**

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Sticks and stones may break my bones.

But, words come back to haunt me.

When we're not right with ourselves,

We're not right with the world,

And we're not right with our God.

It happens to the best of us,

Brings out the worst in us,

And affects the rest of us.

When we tend to our soul,

The tongue takes care of itself.

~ \* ~

A perfect world is a world without sin.

A perfect church is the one you're not in.

A mirror is only as beautiful as its reflection.

Oh, Brother!

God so loved us that we could love each other.

Changing your world begins in your heart.

~ \* ~

God isn't too proud to rummage through garbage dumps,

As some of His best handiwork is made out of junk.

God didn't call us to be someone else.

If we take two steps forward and one step back,

We are still going forward.

It makes no difference how one is qualified,

As faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.

For, it is God who builds HIS church.

God makes all things beautiful, in His time.

Isn't it about time we let Him?

If you want to know what Jesus would do,

Just ask yourself, "Is it Love?"

~ \* ~

It would help us all to consider that

(Anytime we are not listening for the Spirit,

Walking in the Spirit, following the Spirit)

We are sitting on God's throne.

When God decides a matter,

The first place He will start is not upon the circumstance.

He looks upon the heart.

Oh, Brother!

Know what you believe because you heard it from God.

Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

Except God gives us the ability to see man's heart, we're way out of our league.

"Judge not, that ye be not judged," is a pretty specific warning for us all.

Not forgetting we're also human,

Why not give others a break and love them anyway?

God takes it very personal how we treat His children.

Those who receive people in meekness have learned a very special lesson.

In the right place, at the right time, under the right circumstance;

There is no sin we couldn't be tempted with.

Only by the grace of God that it isn't me.

~ \* ~

Brother against brother is a testimony lost people notice.

Without unconditional acceptance, there is no unconditional love.

Only when we become one with God can we become one with each other;

One in heart, soul, purpose, body, mind, and strength.

Some build for today. Others build for eternity.

Peace begins once we realize we're all in the same boat

And God gave us gifts to help each other find our way.

Plant God's Seed and He'll grow the Crop.

~ \* ~

Today's Difficulties are Tomorrow's Testimonies.

Your life will always be filled with challenges.

Oh, Brother!

It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy, anyway.

The sun is just beyond the clouds.

~ \* ~

Were we to ask God to open our eyes, to see ourselves as He sees us;

To examine our heart, actions, attitudes, and motives ...

God would be faithful to show us how we are hurting His cause.

Once we've found our sin and corrected it,

We can ask God to show us another and, then, another.

One step at a time, we'll be weeding out the flesh and Satan's power over us

While winning the world to Christ.

We can make a difference once we decide to be the difference,

Then do it all for the glory of God. It begins within "OUR" heart.

Excerpts from the Writings of Joyce C. Lock

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Joyce C. Lock is a published author, poet, and columnist. In addition, she founded and maintains the e-mail ministries "Heavenly Inspirations" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HeavenlyInspirations/> and "Share a Smile" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/smilesaring/>. Joyce's writings encourage us in our relationship with God and each other.

## **Family Ties - When to Let Go**

**By Margaret Paul, Ph.D.**

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by: **Margaret Paul, Ph.D.**

Ruth consulted with me because she was confused about what to do regarding her mother, her

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brother, and her son.

From the time Ruth was born, she never felt like she belonged in her family. Her mother ignored Ruth, obviously preferring her brother, and consistently allowed her brother to beat Ruth up. Ruth had some connection with her father, but he was a weak man and never stood up for her or protected her.

Ruth was a loving child and tried in any way she could to please her mother and brother, to no avail. She could never understand why her family didn't like her.

As an adult, she married an emotionally unavailable man, a man very much like her mother. As with her mother and brother, she tried in many ways to get his love and never succeeded. Her son, Dylan, was eight years old when they divorced.

Dylan always seemed to prefer his father, and finally went to live with his father when he was sixteen. Once again, Ruth was completely in the dark regarding why her son didn't like her. She had been such a devoted mother, so why was he rejecting her?

Ruth finally married again, this time to a loving man, and had another child. Her current family was totally different from her previous family and from her family of origin. However, she still hoped to have a relationship with her mother. She would send her mother birthday and Christmas cards, but rarely heard from her. The final blow that sent her to seek my help came when she found out that her son had gotten married without telling her, and that her brother had moved her mother into a nursing home and sold everything without telling her.

Ruth was a shining light of love. Her eyes, her smile, her gestures all radiated love and compassion. Her deeply gentle and peaceful nature was evident at first glance.

"Why? Why don't they like me?" she asked.

"Because you are a giver and they are takers," I told her. `Givers care about others, while takers just want to take from others. You can never give enough to a taker to receive any caring back, because they don't like themselves. They reject themselves and try to get others to give to them. Because they have emotionally abandoned themselves, they are angry at others for not giving enough to them. Your mother and brother were united in their taking from you, as were your first husband and son. They look at you and see a fountain of love coming from you and they want it, but they are incapable of receiving it. Your light contrasts with their darkness and they hate you for it."

"But what can I do?"

"Nothing, other than not be around them. They will suck the life out of you if you allow them to spend

time with you. I know you care about them, but they are incapable of caring about themselves or you, so you have to let them go. It is not in your highest good to be with people who are incapable of valuing you - who just want to take from you."

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"But can't I help them?"

"No, because they are not asking for help. I know you have believed that if you just love them enough, they will heal and love you back, but this will never happen because they are not open to your love. They feel inadequate in the face of your open heart and their closed hearts, and they take their self-judgment out on you. There is nothing you can do to help them open their hearts. Only they can do that. It is unlikely your mother or brother will ever open their hearts, but perhaps your son will in time. He will come to you if he does."

"But I have such a great life now. Isn't it selfish of me to just let them go?"

"No, it is self-responsible. It is not loving to yourself to be around people who treat you badly."

Ruth understood. She felt sad, but relieved. She finally saw that all she could do was pray for them to open their hearts.

Margaret Paul, Ph.D. is the best-selling author and co-author of eight books, including "Do I Have To Give Up Me To Be Loved By You?" She is the co-creator of the powerful Inner Bonding healing process. Learn Inner Bonding now! Visit her web site for a FREE Inner Bonding course:

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