

jul 7

familiar friday - friendship
(a repeat daily)

i am blessed to have some good friends. a while back a good friend sent me what is called a "prayer patch". it's just this little square patch of cloth sewn together into a one inch square. when rubbed you can feel this tiny little cross within.

it didn't really come with instructions, so i kind of used my imagination. i have recently decided to take it into my prayer time with me. it's my way of saying, "Lord, this is Your time now. i have things i need to bring to You and i definitely want to listen for what is on Your heart. (i'll let the Holy Spirit take care of that part.) i want to soak in your presence and thank You for all You have done".

i hold it, rubbing occasionally, making me remember the cross He bore was so much heavier than this tiny one. it was His love for us that held Him on that tree, not the nails. the load of sin and guilt, it became His burden. what words could i ever say? what debt could i ever pay. there is nothing that would suffice.

then i remember the words He spoke. "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." matt 16:24 He has left me this tiny cross to carry, while He carried the one that would have surely crushed me. and oh, how often i complain about how heavy my load is and how weary i grow. then, even in the midst my complaining, He

lovingly reaches down and steadies me whenever my knees begin to buckle.

You are the Master i never want to leave. "but if the servant plainly says, 'i love my master, my wife, and my children; i will not go out free,' then his master shall bring him to the judges. he shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever." exo 21:5-7 i am Your bond servant for life. this is slavery i never want to be freed of.

you see, we are all slaves to one thing or another. "Jesus answered them, "most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." john 8:34 another scripture i quoted rather recently remains appropriate here also. "if you do well, will you not be accepted? and if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. and its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." gen 4:7 sin's desire is to rule us. only through the Spirit of Christ can we rule it.

i have another friend (yes, i am blessed with several). the other day she sent me a little bookmark that after a few minutes in the light, it will glow in the dark for awhile. of course the glow always wears off.

the face of moses shown brightly after he had been in the light of the Lord. the people "could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away." 2 cor 3:7 His glory is fading from us if we don't spend time in His presence. time in His presence assures the light (the glory) will not fade. "but we all, with

unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 cor 3:18

yes, i have several friends. "but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." prov 18:24 his friendship requires a separation, a sanctification. "do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." james 4:4

abraham was called the friend of God. i don't know about you, but i want to be His friend also. He has said, "be holy, for I am holy." 1 pet 1:16 that's something this flesh cannot do: be holy. but it is required. it is commanded. "o wretched man that i am! who will deliver me from this body of death? i thank God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!" rom 7:24-25

here are some song lyrics you might well remember:

i come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses
and the voice i hear falling on my ear
the Son of God discloses.

and He walks with me and he talks with me
and He tells me i am His own
and the joy we share as we tarry there
none other has ever known.

it is indeed the joy none other has known. know it for

yourself. you too can be God's friend. "for He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." heb 13:5