

# Extended Invitation

Rachael Martin 5,3,2018

There is talking to someone at regular length and then there's adding "and another thing" and continuing on when you know there was a genuine place for pause.

How many times have you and I ever been talking to, debating with, or even arguing with someone and came to a place of closure, but for reasons we may or may not understand, we pick the conversation back up to give it another jab?

**James 3:15-18 - This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

As well, how many times have we heard "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all?"

Believe it or not, there is selfish ambition in each one of us that, with the Lord's help, can be turned into humility and a love for others that expects no gain. A choice needs to be made within each of us to take precautions, to take a bag of "pause" with us to every place we go.

I would like to challenge each of us to be more sensitive to each situation, each relationship we encounter. That just because we've been there and done that, it doesn't mean we need to grab a soapbox and spill our details. If what we share isn't coming from a place of sincerity and mercy, then we would do good to wait on the Lord for direction and timing.

I'm gonna go here, because I feel it's been long enough and this writing came literally out of the blue – (my dad just walked in the room after midnight to strike up a conversation about stopping the cycle and we hardly ever talk this late so I'm leaning on the Lord to bless our readers with this nugget)

- Even in worship – there are times when the more seasoned worshippers and/or leaders feel a need to fill in a silence.

I have witnessed countless times where Holy Spirit was consuming the atmosphere and moving on the hearts of the people but because there's an awkward time period of silence, those more experienced feel a need to go ahead and start speaking what they feel Holy Spirit doing instead of letting someone less experienced, GAIN the experience of moving in boldness. Does that make sense?

As we gain years with the Lord, as we move into deeper places and as we gain the trust of new friends, and even move into different places with old friends, may we never forget that we had to start somewhere too – and that at some point in our beginnings, someone somewhere, allowed us the time, saw that there was an opportunity for growth, felt that there was place where good fruit could grow in order for us to put a foot forward and take the mic and have the opportunity to bloom.

I extend the invitation to you to allow someone else to speak first this week. Allow someone else to even do all the talking. Allow someone else to do what you want to rush to help them do because you know you can do it too! You may be in that very spot because at some point, as you are allowing them to talk or as you are making an open platform for them to do more, you will start to see them open up, trust, have more confidence, maybe even want your help! What!!? Teamwork.... comradery, unity, peace, fulfillment, joy, a deeper understanding, and even more love can come from humility..... and an open invitation from you.

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