

It's a Surprise!

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Are you ready for a trip to the etymology dictionary?

The word surprise: late 14c. "Unexpected attack or capture," from Middle French surprise "a taking unawares,"

These are defining words about places in our lives that need to be covered with acts of forgiveness. Often times when we have these hiccups with people it feels like an unexpected attack and we are definitely taken unaware, But God calls us to sow seeds.

Our scripture today is 1 Peter 4:12 "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."

What are some relational surprises that you are dealing with right now:

Have you allowed your heart to take the posture of a victim or are you looking for places to sow seeds of grace and forgiveness?

Look at the following verses to see the wisdom God's word shows us for the surprises in life, underline the seed that you see in each verse that is the action step for showing grace.

James 1:19-20

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

James 3:17-18

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Proverbs 17:9

He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Romans 12:19

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Short steps today but it takes a lot of short steps to go on a long walk! If you want an additional good read of how someone else handled a recent surprise follow this link:

<http://www.prodigalmagazine.com/she-yelled-and-called-me-names/>