

“Cross-Pollination!”

By Mrs. Sojourner



A few days ago my sister told me about her garden. She told me something about peppers that some of you avid gardeners may have known, but I did not know. She said that you need to separate your different types of peppers because putting a mild bell pepper plant next to a hot jalapeno pepper plant will cause them to pollinate each other and produce hot bell peppers and mild jalapenos.

This may initially sound amusing, but can be frustrating for the gardener. Let us apply this to our spiritual lives. The Bible tells us we, as Believers, are in this world but not of it. ^(John 17:14,16-18) The Lord could have taken us straight to heaven after we received him as Savior and Lord, but he did not, and he did not for a purpose. Just before his Ascension into Heaven, Jesus instructed his Disciples: ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. ^(Matthew 28:19-20a) We are here to affect the

Notes:

[a]
[b]

world around us for Christ, but we must be careful what people we keep very close to us and on what we spend most of our time concentrating. The people who we listen to the most (or the activities that we give the most time) can either help keep us close to Christ, or lead us on a trail away from Christ and his ways. “Cross-pollination” with ideas from people, books, TV, internet sites (or so many other things) can turn the hot jalapeno peppers he created us to make into “watered-down” peppers because we allowed ourselves to get too close to the wrong things. This **does not** mean we associate only with Believers! This means that when we are with unbelievers we need to make every effort to allow Christ’s love in us to touch them and not let the world hinder our walk with Christ.

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...with The Sojourner

“Highways” (Teaching Sketch)

Luke 14:16-24



The role of highways in our lives is so encompassing it is a bit elusive to fully grasp just how dependent we are on highways. There are so many reasons for using a highway, road, street, or alley that every society has complex rules for their use. There is no record of the use of highways in the Garden of Eden but since we are told how the two human inhabitants regularly met with God there on a daily basis and talked with him.^[a] It would seem reasonable to expect Adam and Eve to have had some customary paths which they developed by use in their regular activities. These paths would have been the first roads or highways used to permit mankind to traverse the land in their goings and comings.

Jesus On The Roads

Jesus along with his disciples used roads to go from place to place, village to village, town to town as he went about his ministry on earth. Jesus’ ministry in his body then became an example of how his disci-



ples were to continue his ministry after he had ascended on high. Jesus went from place to place telling of God, healing the sick, and delivering those oppressed by Satan and his minions. The Gospels are full of such stories. There is even one story when men brought a woman caught in adultery to him in the street to get him to condemn her and be a part of stoning her to death as the Law required. Jesus, right there in the street, used the incident to teach all who were observing, as well as the woman and her accusers. Yes, Jesus knew how to use the streets and highways!

Notes:

[a]
Genesis
3:8-9

[b]
Acts 2

The Disciples Used The Highways

The disciples used the highways and the streets. The day of Pentecost, as reported by Luke in Acts, tells of the coming of the Holy Spirit to fill the disciples there in Jerusalem.^[b] It was at this point the various nationalities who heard and observed the disciples employing and demonstrating the Holy Spirit operat-

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Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

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Scripture:

Luke 14:16-24 (NIV)

¹⁶Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

¹⁸"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

¹⁹"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house

Notes:

[a]

became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

²²" 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

²³"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' "

Continued form page one.

ing in the disciples. The word spread all over Jerusalem and to countries beyond of what took place. How did this news travel? It traveled by way of merchant caravans and

The Sojourner's Hub Prayer Page

Sojourners please use the Prayer Page on the internet in you daily devotions. This will help to insure that you pray for the people of Israel, your governments, and the people who have ask us to agree with them in prayer on matters of great concern to them. Please, also, email the prayer requests you bring to the Pod gatherings so they can be posted.



Coming: TSOJ Radio

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others who were using the highways, streets, and paths as they told of the happenings of that day in Jerusalem while carrying out their normal occupations.

Go!

Jesus told the story in Luke's Gospel of a man wanting to bless people by holding a great banquet. He sent his servants out to invite many to come and enjoy the blessings of their master but they all had some excuse as to why their agenda was more important than that of the master.

The servants did all they knew to do but there was still room at the master's table for more people to come to enjoy all their master had to offer.

Sadly, today the King of kings and Lord of lords continues to do the same, inviting people to enjoy his blessings. Unlike the servants in Jesus' story not only are the invitees not willing to come but the servants are unwilling to go into the highways and invite people to enjoy the blessings of the Master.

As a Believer will you be faithful to deliver the message of the Master's blessing?

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

