

## **A Great Day in the Kingdom – 10/14/22**

Have you ever come across someone who enjoys belittling others? They consistently use the phrase, “Just kidding.” The perpetrator covers for their cruelty, yet provides for themselves an infinite number of future victims. Remember “Sticks and Stones?” This is the biggest misnomer ever spoken.

**Matthew 12:36- I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.**

Those who antagonize, put down, criticize and tear down will one day answer to God for being “careless” in the words they speak to others. However, this unacceptable and belittling behavior can be countered, with God’s help. Years ago, I attended a barbecue at a friend of mine’s church. This was one of those way out in the middle of nowhere churches. One really had to have a great desire to get there, in order to get there! You get the point.

As I was walking around with this young pastor, we approached a table of ladies. One of the women looked at me and asked why I was with such a person. My response was that my friend could be asked the same about me. “I don’t like him,” she said, plainly. I was blown away. She meant it! As I could see the smile attempt to cover the pain on his face, this young pastor responded with powerful grace. His response was, “You may not like me, but I will always love you.”

**This week, please read Proverbs 25:22.**

I have never seen someone feel more awkward in a public place. I am not describing the pastor’s but the woman’s experience. This woman was provided the appropriate Christian response. I remember going from a feeling of shock and offense to being thankful for the walking sermon that was my friend, that day. I praise God for that experience, as I try and implement it and replicate it in my life.

We all love a good kidding! But, we can also tell the difference between affinity and cruelty.

You’re a wonderful Church Family and I am Blessed and Honored to be your pastor. This week, please build someone up and encourage them. Everyone of God’s people need to be reminded of their worth.

**PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me to encourage others. As I can recall words of discouragement spoken to me, may I be that much more encouraging and Loving to others. Guide me, through Your Holy Spirit into the ways of Christ. I ask these things in His precious and risen name. AMEN!!!**