



The Notes

WELCOME TO USVILLE

Part 4: “You Can Cut the Tension With a Knife”

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TO CREATE THE TENSION THAT KEEPS THIS COMMUNITY HEALTHY & GROWING, I HAVE TO...

1. ...WELCOME _____, BUT STILL EXPEL THE _____.

“The apostles came back and told Jesus everything they had done. He took them with him, and they went off by themselves to a town named Bethsaida. When the crowds heard about it, they followed him. He welcomed them, spoke to them about the Kingdom of God, and healed those who needed it.”

Luke 9:10-11 (GNT)

“Then these other people will say, ‘Master, when did we see you and you were hungry, or you were thirsty? When did we see you alone or without clothes? When did we see you and you were ill, or in prison? When did you need our help and we did not help you?’ Then the king will reply, ‘I tell you this: You did not help people who are my friends. They were not important people. But when you did not help them, you also did not help me.’ Then those people on the king's left side will go away to the place where God will punish them for ever. But the good people on the king's right side will live for ever with God.”

Matthew 25:44-46 (EASY)

2. ...MAKE THIS A _____ PLACE, BUT STILL _____ FOR PEACE.

“It does not matter whether you are a Jew or a Gentile. It does not matter whether you are a slave or a free person. It does not matter whether you are a man or a woman. You all belong together because you all belong to Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:28 (EASY)

“Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they do or say something you don’t agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.”

Romans 14:1 (MSG)

“I am pleading with all of you, brothers and sisters, to keep up your guard against anyone who is causing conflicts and enticing others with teachings contrary to what you have already learned. If there are people like that in your churches, stay away from them.”

Romans 16:17 (TVB)

“Give a warning to all those who cause arguments. If they continue to cause trouble after a second warning, then don’t associate with them. You know that people like that are evil and sinful. Their sins prove they are wrong.”

Titus 3:10-11 (ERV)

3. ..._____ RESPONSIBLY, BUT STILL _____ RESPONSIVELY.

“This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Each family must pick up as much as they need to eat. Pick up two litres for each person who lives in your tent.’ So the Israelites did this. Some of them picked up a lot of the food. Some of

them picked up only a little food. But when they measured the right amount, everyone had enough to eat. The person who had picked up a lot did not have too much. And the person who had picked up only a little food still had enough to eat. Each person had picked up what he needed. Then Moses said to them, ‘Do not keep any of it until the morning.’ But some of the people did not listen to Moses. They kept part of the food until the morning. But worms appeared in it, and it began to have a bad smell.”

Exodus 16:16-20 (EASY)

“Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians. This was totally spontaneous, entirely their own idea, and caught us completely off guard. What explains it was that they had first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives. That’s what prompted us to ask Titus to bring the relief offering to your attention, so that what was so well begun could be finished up. You do so well in so many things—you trust God, you’re articulate, you’re insightful, you’re passionate, you love us—now, do your best in this, too.”

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (MSG)