



## Wednesday's Walk With The Lord

July 5, 2023

### Just People

When I was much younger and lived in Del Rio, far away from anybody, Dan Shipley came for a gospel meeting. As soon as he hit the ground, I began complaining about this and that. He said, "Rickie, it is like Robert Turner once told me, 'They are just people.'" That was great advice and it also told me that Dan had struggled with similar things regarding people.

"They are just people," is not an apology to say, "Well, I am no higher than a worm." No, saying that we are people is saying that we are the height of God's creation. Of all He

created, people are God's crown and glory. However, it is people with whom He has the most problems. He doesn't have a problem with a grain of sand on the beach. The great trees in the forest do not exasperate Him. It is people with whom God struggles. It is people who have sinned, broken fellowship with Him, and who need reconciliation with Him. He was willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice of His son to redeem His people. People are the ones who will live with Him in eternity. People are His precious jewels.

Now, that puts us in a pretty high place in the eyes of God. So, when we say, "They are just people," don't think we're any less. However, we are just people. People who are flawed. We all have personalities, idiosyncrasies, and faults. Each one of us has something we struggle with. It is to people God has extended His longsuffering, mercy and grace. God makes provision for people to grow and develop. He doesn't leave us like He found us. He expects better of us. That "better" will never be perfection.

God is longsuffering with us. Why is it such a challenge for us to be longsuffering with each other? Why is it so hard to extend mercy? Longsuffering and mercy are needed when there is an issue. There is no need for longsuffering when everybody does what I want or what I think they should do.

God is also kind. Am I only kind to those who are kind to me? Kindness suggests there is a need. When I disagree with someone, I need to be kind. When someone hurts me, I need to be kind. When I fail, I need to be kind to myself. When I am in an argument, I need to be kind to the person with whom I am disagreeing.

Yes, we are just people. We ought to strive to be like God in our heart, character, and behavior. But also give people latitude to be flawed. No one will ever meet the expectation of perfection. Robert Turner also said, "If you expect perfection or nothing you will get nothing." Let people be people. Let them develop. Give them time to change. Give them time to grow. They don't have to be me. After all, someone somewhere extended God's mercy to me.

**Rickie Jenkins**