

«TEACHING... TO BE FRIENDS»



“One evening, my karate teacher couldn't make it to our class, so he gave me the keys to open the gym and put me in charge, asking me to sub for him and teach my peers.

So I prepared myself. We started warming up together and as we were about to bow down with our usual greeting in front of the tatami mat, I heard a group of boys coming into the gym. I had a bad feeling about that.

I wasn't wrong ... those guys were just nasty. They began to kick with their shoes on the tatami mat and they wanted to steal our trophies. At first, my immediate reaction was to fight them. But all of a sudden I remembered the words of Jesus: "Love your enemies! If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?"

So I immediately stopped all my karate friends who were also ready to fight, and I went to talk to those guys. I told them that it wasn't worth stealing the trophies. They had to respect the efforts and the sacrifices made by the people who had earned them.



A. C. - ITALY

In other words, I convinced them to calm down. Then they took off their shoes, joined us on the mat and participated in the karate lesson with all of us.

But the best thing is that we became friends! Some of them liked karate so much, that they registered and are still training with me.



«IF YOU ENDURE WHEN YOU DO RIGHT AND SUFFER FOR IT, YOU HAVE GOD'S APPROVAL»

To endure suffering patiently? How is that possible?

In his letter, the apostle Peter addresses the slaves who had become Christians and, like all the slaves at that time, were suffering mistreatment and even gross injustices.

But that happened a long time ago! What about now?

We can say that his words are directed not only to the slaves of his day, but to all those, in every time and place, who are misunderstood or treated unjustly by others, whether they are in charge of them or not.

How can you manage to put up with these negative situations and not react with anger?

By imitating Jesus and behaving like he did.

Jesus urges us to respond with love and to realize that there's a special grace to help us overcome those difficult moments. He encourages us to see them as opportunities to show a true Christian spirit.

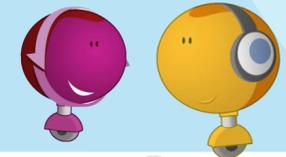
Some people might say that acting like this is too submissive and criticize Christians for not standing up for themselves.

But that's not true. If Jesus asks us to love even those who don't understand us or who mistreat us, it's not because he wants us to ignore injustices. On the contrary! He asks us to love those who mistreat us because he wants to teach us how to build a truly just society.

CUT AND FOLD IN HALF, YOU CAN USE THE INSIDE OF THIS CARD TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS WORD OF LIFE.

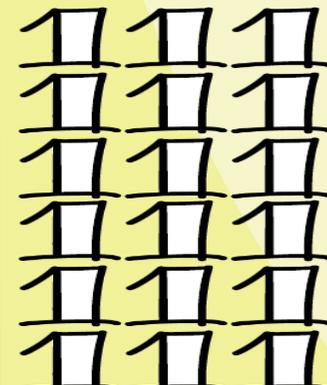
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WE HAVE TO BEAR WITNESS TO LOVE, THE LOVE THAT JESUS BROUGHT ON EARTH, WHICH IS LOVE FOR EVERYONE AND THEREFORE ALSO FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT US.



In Action...

HOW CAN WE BUILD A TRULY JUST SOCIETY?



BY BEING THE FIRST TO LOVE!

Color here every time you are able to be the first to love!

CUT OUT THIS PART, WHEN YOU FOLD IT, IT BECOMES A USEFUL CARD TO TAKE AROUND WITH YOU.