



## My Jewish Friend Is Dying

I receive the calls more regularly now. And, it happened again. **It's one of those calls that I dread, yet on the other hand I am glad that I am there to receive it.** Usually the call begins with an introduction and then I hear the words, *"I need your help."* This time the call came from a friend who is familiar with our ministry. Other times the call comes from someone referred to us by another. **These are the words that come next, "My Jewish friend is dying."**

I have written about this topic before, but it's a topic that now needs to be revisited. We are given the gift of life. That life can only be found in Jesus. All too often we wait until the last moment to talk to those we love. **Perhaps this letter will encourage you to do something now.**

**I got the call from Terri regarding her Jewish friend, Judy.** Judy was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago. The cancer was treated and went into remission. Then, it came back with a vengeance and by the time they found it the cancer had spread to her lungs. Her prognosis was not good. She declined any more chemotherapy. Judy had been moved to her home and was in home hospice care. **Terri wanted me to come and visit Judy to talk to her about spiritual issues.**

**Thank God, Terri had been open with Judy about spiritual issues over their many years of friendship.** So, it was not as if Judy had never heard about Jesus or spiritual things from Terri. But Judy had never heard from another Jewish person who believed in Jesus. That's what Terri wanted from me.



Judy had never been interested in talking about spiritual issues, even with Terri. In fact, she was somewhat resistant, usually telling Terri, *"I am not interested,"* or just blatantly telling her *"I don't want you to talk to me about Jesus."* **Through the years Terri had figured out a way to love Judy, respect her boundaries, and yet still somehow find ways to try to open up the spiritual doors.** Now, Judy was on her deathbed.

**Our first attempt at visiting Judy didn't work out because Judy had to go into the hospital for some procedures.** We made plans to go the next week. Terri and I met in the parking lot of a church and prayed. Terri did a good thing. She didn't even tell Judy I was coming. **I don't usually recommend dropping in on people unannounced.** However, in this instance we couldn't take the chance of Judy saying, *"No."* So I went, hoping that I would get to talk to her. As Terri boldly said to me, *"Murray, I have everything to gain and nothing to lose now."* What a brave statement!

Upon arriving at Judy's I sat in the kitchen for an hour. Judy did not want to see me at first. Her home hospice

caretaker was there, and she wasn't feeling up to talking to anyone. **However, with Terri's persistence, Judy invited me in.**

I spent 30 enjoyable minutes with Judy. I was able to tell her about my life and how, as a Jewish person, I came to faith in Jesus. I explained that one does not have to stop being Jewish to accept Him, and that I saw in Him the fulfillment of all of the Hebrew prophecies. She listened, she talked, and she was cordial. She even asked me how my parents responded when they found out about my faith. **It was a sweet time.**

Prior to leaving I gave Judy a big hug and asked if I could come back and visit. She agreed, which was a miracle in itself. We planned a meeting for the next week. As I walked out of the door I stopped and looked back at Judy. *"Can I pray for you now,"* I asked. *"No,"* she said. *"You can pray for me when you leave."* **I never saw Judy again.**

On March 2nd at 8:55 AM I received a text from Terri. *"Judy peacefully passed away about an hour ago with her son by her side. She will be greatly missed. Thank you for your prayers and caring for her soul. I did talk to her every day about Jesus and about how much God loves her. Thank you for your encouragement."*

**Terri is a great example of one who bravely stepped out and spoke to her Jewish friend about Jesus from the beginning of their friendship.** But it doesn't always happen that way. Most people wait until the very end.

**It's human nature. We procrastinate, even with spiritual issues.** We start to worry the closer we come to the end of

our lives and the closer our friends get to the end of theirs. We begin to think about what we could, or should, say. **Sometimes, however, the end of life creeps up on us more quickly than expected.**

**I sure wish people would call sooner.** By the time a Jewish person (or any person) gets into hospice they are surrounded by family and friends and it is almost impossible to talk to them about spiritual issues. At that point in their life, most people are physically and mentally fatigued, on medication, and unable to listen.

**It's never too late to talk to someone about Jesus, but why wait?** I can tell you the longer one waits to talk to a friend (or family member) about spiritual issues the more difficult it can become.

**Sharing our faith is not only for the other person. Sharing our faith is for us as well.** Talking to others about the Lord gives us courage. We have to step out of our personal comfort zones. It builds our faith. We learn to depend on Him more fully.

**We need to share our faith so that we can know we did everything we could to bring the truth to those who are important in our lives.** Once they are gone, we cannot talk to them anymore. Once they are gone we need to know in our hearts that we did all we could. We need to be able to go to bed at night with peace.

Sharing our faith with others is important because we all should want clean grief. **We should want to be able to grieve without the guilt of wondering if we did enough or if we could have done more.** Who knows when someone is going to die, or get fired, or move? One never knows. That's why the Lord tells us to talk about Him now.

**God Puts People Into Our Lives  
For a Purpose.**

**It is no coincidence that if you have a Jewish person in your life they are there for a reason.** God is not a God of coincidences. He is the author of every aspect of our lives. He ordains our circumstances. He is sovereign over our



every moment. Who comes into our lives is a part of His divine plan. Don't miss the opportunities that the Lord gives to you.

**It is not easy to talk to people about spiritual issues, especially if the person is experiencing a life threatening illness.** However, it is exactly during those difficult times of life when people are most open to exploring spiritual issues. When did you come to Jesus? Were things going well? Or did you come to Him through a difficult circumstance? If you have a Jewish friend or family member the Lord wants to use you to tell them about Him!

**God Will Give Us The Words To Say**

**Most people do not talk to their friends about Jesus because they do not feel like they know what to say.** They are afraid that if their friend responds back negatively then they will not know how to answer. We don't engage because we feel inadequate, incapable, ignorant, or afraid.

Jesus warned us about that. He said not to worry...that the Holy Spirit would give us the words to say. **But if we don't open our mouths how can the**

**Spirit speak through us?** Remember that the same Lord who brings people into our lives will also give us the words to say.

**Don't Wait Until It's Too Late**

**I recently received a call from John.** He is a doctor who has a Jewish friend named Michael. Michael is a lawyer who does not yet know the Lord. John called me overwhelmed with the feeling that he has not done enough to share Jesus with His Jewish friend.

I asked John several questions about Michael. Was he searching? Having difficulty in life? Marriage ok? Had John ever talked to Michael about Jesus? John told me that Michael has "the world by the tail." He has everything one could want...health, a beautiful wife, money, and very few problems. Michael is not open to the gospel and is not really searching, but he will talk.

**I told John that one never knows when a friend may start their spiritual search.** But one day Michael will. And John will be there. He will be prepared. And if, God forbid, Michael were to die suddenly, John would have done his job.

I rejoice that Terri told Judy about Jesus! I am so glad John came to us early. **We are here to help. Call us!**

**THANK YOU!**

**Thank you for helping us take Jesus back to the Jewish people.** They have given us so much. They need Him.

**Thank you, as well, for sending us out to the Jewish community with that message of peace and salvation in Jesus.** May the Lord richly bless you!

In His service,

Murray Tilles...for the staff  
Light of Messiah Ministries

**How to Contact Us**

**Light of Messiah Ministries  
P.O. Box 501179  
Atlanta, GA 31150  
Phone: 770-642-4706  
Fax: 770-642-0319  
E-mail: [lightofmessiah@yahoo.com](mailto:lightofmessiah@yahoo.com)  
[lightofmessiah.org](http://lightofmessiah.org)**