

Sunday July 5, 2020

Esther and Emmett – Graduated love:

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: Hi Emmett, how are you?

Emmett: I don't know...tell me Esther, have you ever had a day when you feel like you just can't win?

Esther: What do you mean?

Emmett: Well, I was having my graduation photo taken and the photographer said I should smile more, so I did this...

Esther: That's quite the smile...

Emmett: I thought so, but the photographer said maybe I should go for something slightly more serious, so I did this...

Esther: That's much more serious!

Emmett: Really?

Esther: Seriously!

Emmett (sighs): That's what I thought, but the photographer...

Esther: Let me guess! The photographer thought you were being too serious!

Emmett: Like I said...sometimes you can't win no matter what you do!

Esther: Hmmm, that reminds me of something Jesus said about the way people react to God's messengers...

Emmett: Did people want them to smile more, or to be more serious?

Esther: Yes!

Emmett: Now you sound like my photographer!

Esther: Jesus was frustrated by people's excuses for not paying attention to God. Jesus said that people acted like they were arguing in a marketplace.

Emmett: Acting how?

Esther: Jesus said that it was as if someone played music, but no one wanted to get up and have fun dancing. So then people just sat still and cried, and no one wanted to be so sad and wondered why no one was playing music.

Emmett: ...you see, you just can't win!!

Esther: Jesus said it was like the way some people talked about John the Baptist...

Emmett: I remember him...he lived out in the desert, ate insects, made his own clothes out of animal skins, dunked people in the river to baptize them...right?

Esther: Right.. Jesus said everyone looked at John and said, "You know, he never goes to parties and his diet is odd and he's just weird.

Emmett: Well, they might have had a point!!!!

Esther: Then Jesus said that the same people looked at him and said, "That Jesus spends way too much time having fun and eating with and hanging out with odd people..."

Emmett: A case in point...John the Baptist!!

Esther: Right, so now you know what Jesus was talking about....

Emmett: I sure dooo....I really don't have any idea!

Esther: Jesus was saying that God shows up in our lives through all sorts of people. We sometimes think that God wants us to sing a particular kind of hymn, or worship in a very particular way, or dress a certain way, or always be happy...

Emmett: I think I know a photographer like that...?

Esther: But Jesus says that God might speak to us through hymns AND through hip hop music, that people who are always hosting parties might be showing how much God welcomes everyone, but people who spend time walking alone might be discovering the beauty of silence...

Emmett: Soooo, someone who dresses 'weird' may have as much to tell us about God as someone who wears a fancy designer dress??

Esther: Yes... God is a lot more creative and diverse than we sometimes give God credit for...

Emmett: So, some people smile a lot and some look serious a lot..

Esther: some dance and some cry...

Emmett: Some do all those things at different times...

Esther: but God loves everyone and everyone may be showing God's love in different ways.

Emmett: Everyone is a graduate of God's love!

Esther: Everyone graduates into more of God's love.

Emmett: Wow! God really is amazing!

Esther: And we are amazing!

Emmett: Thanks be to God!

Esther: Amen

Emmett: Amen