

The Pilgrimage

It was a long, hard ride, but for the biker it was a necessary journey. Part of the Brotherhood of the Wind. There were few things more important in life than the "main event." Some of the clubs made attendance mandatory at these events, because an appearance "en masse" made a lasting impression of strength on the other clubs, and could settle petty arguments before they became major confrontations. Jaysee always enjoyed the pilgrimage, since first attending as a young boy. He felt that his destiny was intertwined with the festivities of the national event. He seemed to be right at home among the crowds of people, whether they were hostile or friendly. He had a way of disarming those who were antagonistic or overly cautious with his down-to-earth, common sense attitude. This was an opportunity to share his unique world view with others who were searching for truth and the meaning of life.

This year was no different. The ride was long and hot, and it taxed the Knucklehead, as Jaysee and the boys headed across the badlands to join in the festivities. There was a powerful cross wind that set the bikes at a precarious angle on the pavement, and set the riders' teeth on edge. Each evening, gathered around the impromptu campfires along the highway, a sense of relief eased the tensions of knotted shoulders, arms, and stomachs - another days' worth of miles left behind. Stories of near misses and feats of riding skill were passed around the fire and added to the warmth of brotherhood on a chilly evening. This rite of passage was anticipated by every young buck in the club, ready to prove his manhood and stand with Jaysee and the others against any obstacle of nature or humanity. The merchants of ill-gotten gain would soon meet their match as Jaysee rode into town. Jaysee was well known by now, and his reputation was respected by leaders and followers from almost every other club at the event. He had a way of making his presence felt without being a threat to another's authority. He was truly a peace maker, settling differences before they got out of hand. Actually, he was a threat to some authority figures because of his extreme popularity with the common man. So much so that they trumped up charges against him to try and get him put in jail, out of their way. I know it's hard to believe, but some people wanted to control everything, and were willing to sacrifice one man, Jaysee, in order to expedite their agenda. When this didn't work out the way they expected, Jaysee's popularity among the people soared. It was as if he could do no wrong, and he could have overthrown all leadership and instigated a revolt against authority right then had he wanted to. But he didn't. Jaysee knew that the authorities were taking advantage of the common people, only interested in the profits they could gouge out of the consumers, so he openly called their game into question. He was a role model, not a dictator, so he didn't take their place of authority - he just called attention to their dishonesty. As a student of human nature, he knew that a show of strength brought support only until someone stronger came along. That kind of leadership only existed until another could muster the support to usurp the first. Continual confrontation would become the way of life.

So Jaysee stepped out of the limelight. He showed up the hypocrites for who they were, then stepped back from center stage, to give respect where it was due. He knew that his purpose was not in the form of control, but in influence. Those who would follow him must be committed to his ideals, just as he was. So he would lead by example, and influence the lives of many by his words and actions. But he would never become a leader by force, nor by the vote of fickle followers. Only by committed response of those called to follow him.

Our Father in heaven seeks to influence our lives in such a way that we voluntarily respond to his leadership. He has the authority and the strength to force us to serve him, but he chooses to draw us to himself, so that we become his willing followers. He rightly asks us to give our all to him, because Jesus Christ was willing to give his all for us, dying on the cross for our sins. That he lives today as Lord of all is a testament to His mighty power over sin and death. He gives that same power to those who trust in him. Those who understand the Brotherhood of the Wind have an idea of this commitment to which the Lord calls us. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

Pastor Sam

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Brotherhood

by † Preacher Clutter

In the biking community we see and hear much about brotherhood. I am a Vietnam veteran and when we see that another person is a veteran we have an immediate bond and kinship. We do not yet know anything about each other but we know that we share common things in our training and experiences, therefore we are brothers.

If a military brother sees a need in another brother or his family we are there to help - no questions asked. You can see a strong brotherhood in motorcycle clubs and ride groups. If a brother is down or needs something, his brothers are there to help. There is no need too great. We are our brother's keeper. We see clubs and ride groups helping out in the community, raising funds for homeless shelters and food pantries.

In the Christian community, we also see brotherhood. When someone needs help Christians are there holding food drives, giving certificates for food or lodging, or helping out in some other specific way.

Are there exceptions to the brotherly kindness that I have talked about? Yes, unfortunately there are. In the veteran, biking, and Christian communities there are frequently hurting people or people who have needs who slip through the cracks because no one is looking or no one cares.

Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Because of our human nature we will always have people who don't care or who care more about themselves than anyone else. But regardless of how imperfect we are because of our human natures there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

He is Jesus Christ. He doesn't care what side of the tracks you have come from; He doesn't care how you have lived your life [Luke 14:12-14]; He doesn't care what you wear or what you ride [Matthew 6:25-34]. If you believe [Ephesians 2:8-9] that Jesus Christ is who He says He is - you have a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Please read about The Free Gift on Page Two. Jesus won't let you down.

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