

# Scripture

## II Timothy 4:9-23

Look for our event!



A photograph of a garden with numerous pink tulips in the foreground. In the background, there is a stone wall or ledge. The scene is slightly blurred, giving it a soft, artistic feel. The tulips are in various stages of bloom, and their green leaves are visible at the base.

# **Are Relationships Worth the Trouble?**

**7/25/2021**

# **I. Relationships May End in Desertion**

**- Vs. 10, 16**

# **II. Relationships May Pose a Danger**

**- Vs. 14-15**

## **Zechariah 12:10, 13:6 -**

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn...And if one asks him, 'What are these wounds on your back?' he will say, 'The wounds I received in the house of my friends.'

# **III. Relationships Bring Great Delight**

**- Vs. 9-12, 19**

## **II Corinthians 7:5-7 -**

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.

# **III. Relationships Bring Great Delight**

**- Vs. 9-12, 19**

## **II Timothy 1:16-18 -**

May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me- may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!

These men acknowledged that they had suffered both psychological pain and physical mistreatment. Somehow, they had survived unbroken, in large part due to the shared strength of their bond of friendship. Before being arrested, they had served together as house-church planters. Then, after their arrest, they had together endured years of imprisonment and cruel treatment because of their faith. In prison, they had together led hundreds of fellow prisoners to Christ. And now, less than a week...

out of prison, they sat in my hotel room and together actually re-enacted for me some of the torture that they had received in prison... After years of cruel emotional and physical mistreatment, these three friends had walked out into freedom with an obvious and contagious sense of joy. Their testimony was one of humor and hope. Their lives were evidence to the strength that can be found in community and fellowship and faith.

**~Ripken/Lewis, The Insanity of God, 223-226**