**I Wish Nothing but the Best for You**

The Bible (Hebrews 1) tells us that God speaks in many and varied ways. Let me tell you about one such way that God spoke to me. Quite unexpectedly, this together with some other incidents completely changed my life around!

In 2011 we went for a holiday of a life time. We had both retired and to celebrate we went for a three month trip down under. One of our sons is now an Australian citizen and so the incentive in going to Australia was to see our son as well as seeing the country. Before going I just knew that God had something special for the two of us but I did not know what. During those three months God spoke to both of us in various ways. Quite out of the blue something would just ‘happen’ and from it God spoke some amazing things to us.

After spending eleven weeks touring the east coast, the final two weeks were spent in Western Australia, where our son and his wife live. Whilst there, all four of us went for a week’s holiday to Kalbari National Park. The drive to Kalbari took 8 hours and on the drive back our son was playing some CDs to pass the time. He only had a two or three CDs with him and as he liked one more than the others, one got played three or four times. There was I trying to enjoy God and trying to enjoy the scenery and there was Mark playing the pop music. There was I trying to make conversation, there was Mark playing pop music. Completely out of the blue, God said to me “Listen to the words of the song being played.” I listened and I could not believe what I was hearing. Adele was singing “Someone Like You” (I had never heard of Adele, let alone the song, and had to do some research to find out exactly which song it was). The words that God impressed onto my heart were ‘I wish nothing but the best for you.’ To begin with I thought that they were just some nice reassuring words from God for me. God letting me know that He loved me. But as I prayed about it, God impressed on me that the words had a far greater significance than that!

‘I wish nothing but the best for you’ were indeed God’s word to me, reassuring me that His plans were indeed the very best I could possibly have! But, and this is the big ‘BUT’, they were also a challenge to me! Do I wish nothing but the best for everyone I meet? All right then God I know I should want the best for everyone, after all Jesus died to save the world and that includes everyone! So I needed to change and seek God to change me so that I could wish nothing but the best for all the unsaved. Then, ‘horror of horrors’ God spoke and said “No, no ‘I wish nothing but the best for you’ is to include everyone; that is to include your fellow Christians.” I objected to God and said that I did love my fellow Christians and I was trying to have love for all the unsaved. So started a journey of discovery; a journey of discovering just how little I loved, how little my friends loved, how little we appreciate what love really is!

At this point I suppose I ought to admit that my past had been a very ‘Godly’ one as far as others were concerned. I had graduated with a mathematics degree, been a computer programmer for a year before returning to university to undertake theological training. For fifteen years I was a Baptist minister; first in Yorkshire then London and finally in Reading.

Going back to the song, for most people, to love their ‘ex’ their ex-spouse, their ex-partner is very hard. After a separation or divorce, most people I have met have hated their ‘ex’. But this song is not just wanting good for their ‘ex’ but wishing the best for their ‘ex’. Wishing the BEST for their ‘ex’! How can this be? God, how can one want the best for someone who has so deeply hurt you?

Similarly, when a complete stranger has just cut you up on the road, do you wish the very BEST for them?

When a colleague at work has used your ideas and skills in order to get promotion at your expense how do you wish the BEST for them?

Well the answer lies with what God can supply.

P.S. The answer lies with your heart. Future articles will deal with this in more detail.

Bill Hunter 2011