Taking the High Road

(From “Connecting the Dots Daily Devotional”)

Taking the “high road” is a familiar expression about doing the right thing even when it’s the difficult or unpopular thing. Christianity is all about taking the high road— it’s about loving those considered to be unlovable….fighting hate with love….helping someone in need even though your bank account is low….you get the idea. Sometimes we just have to deal with people who don’t think like us….don’t act like us….maybe don’t like us….and don’t want to be around us (the “us” could be us as individuals, or us as Christians).

Often we come across people whose lives are all about getting what they want, no matter the cost to those around them. Sometimes these people have a tendency to run “rough-shod” over us because of who we are—after all, we’re “filled” with grace….and we’ll forgive them. Won’t we? It’s what we’re called to do as followers of Jesus.

How do you and I respond when the other person takes the “low road”….and we know that we need to take the “high road”? The answer is this: We speak the truth in love. That’s our obligation—our duty as Christians. That IS the high road. Ephesians 4:15 says this: “Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.” Don’t wallow in self-pity if you feel you’re being mistreated…..because it happens to all of us….and guess what? We also mistreat others! But back to the idea of speaking the truth in love—-if we don’t speak up, are we being truthful? Maybe some of you have no problem speaking up for yourselves. But I know some of you would rather keep quiet and suffer in silence than make waves. Here’s the thing: There’s nothing that says you always have to speak up….or that you have to speak up right away to someone who’s mistreated you….or that your best first option has to be opening your mouth, rather than first opening your mind and heart. If you’ve prayed about what your response needs to be….and you know in your heart what the high road is—take it. We’ve all taken way too many low roads….and that’s always a bumpy road that leads to places where we’d rather not go, right?

Here’s what I’ve learned is always true for me: When I make the mistake of taking the low road….it’s because I choose to react to the person or situation at hand….rather than respond. A reaction is always easier than a response…..but then, doing the wrong thing is usually easier than doing the right thing.

As I was thinking about this choice we have to take the “high road”….it reminded me of that beautiful poem by Robert Frost---“The Road Not Taken”. (PLAY AUDIO)