

Road Trip Devotion - Romans 12:15-16

by Tony Kafka, Growth Ministries Pastor

“Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!” (Romans 12:15-16; NLT)

*I get carried away by the look, by the light of your eyes;
Before I even realize the ride I’m on,
Baby I’m long gone.
I get carried away nothin’ matters but being with you;
Like a feather flyin’ high up in the sky on a windy day,
I get carried away.*

Carried Away – does this describe your feelings about anyone? These words, recorded by Country artist, George Strait, describe being so emotionally moved by someone else that “nothin else matters.”

We are warned to “be on guard so that you will not be carried away by errors of wicked people” (2 Peter 3:17; NLT). So, getting carried away must be a bad thing? Only if we are carried away by wickedness. It’s not getting carried away that’s the problem.

However, right here in Romans 12:16 we are prodded to “get carried away by people of low position.” The NIV says; “be willing to associate with people of low position” and the NLT puts it this way; “Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people.” These translations express what Paul literally wrote, “get carried away with commonplace people.” Do what they want to do. Talk about what they want to talk about. In fact, “be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.” Get carried away by everyday people – not just our *Dancing with the Stars* favorite, or the top high school prospect that Nebraska landed this year.

So what’s my point? When I think about associating with people of low position, I see them as lower than me – I think about being the helper, assisting them with some need, doing for them what I think is best for them. Rather than holding to this superior attitude toward others, Paul is encouraging us to get carried away in caring and connecting with another person.

A Jewish Proverb states: "Among those who stand, do not sit; Among those who sit, do not stand; Among those who laugh, do not weep; Among those who weep, do not laugh."

An ordinary person has just lost a job – I get carried away with concern. A friend needs to talk about their run of the mill problem, again! I get carried away in the details of their frustration. A typical grandparent wants to show me pictures of the grandchildren – I get carried away with their joy and pride. When was the last time you got carried away because you love people so much?