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Accountability

By Rick Artis

Scriptures:

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1st Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

James 5:16

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Cast:

2 men

Theme:

Bearing each others burdens
Confessing sins and being held accountable for future actions

Applications:

Temptations
Spiritual Growth
Being 'My Brothers Keeper'

Setting:

Local Diner or
Park Bench

Time:

Lunch time

Characters:

Tony

Dennis

Performance time:

Approximately 5 minutes

If using just the first half- approx. 3 minutes

Tony-

So how'd it go?

Dennis-

Man, it was tough. She walked in and all the same feelings came back.

Tony-

And...?

Dennis-

She hugged me, I hugged her back, and then I walked away. It was really hard, but I made some stupid excuse and walked away.

Tony-

That's good. It's what you said you wanted to do.

Dennis-

Not exactly. I said it's what I *needed* to do. What I *wanted* to do was just the opposite. I wanted to do everything in my power to develop the relationship to the point that something more happens.

Tony-

But you didn't. You walked away. You did what you needed to, to preserve your marriage, to preserve your conscious and preserve your walk with Christ.

Dennis-

But, I didn't *want* to. That's what scares me. And it *really* scares me that this keeps happening. Five times in eighteen months. Why do I keep getting into situations like this? A casual acquaintance escalates to the point to where I consider making some really bad choices.

Tony-

So far you haven't done anything, *right?* You recognize the signs and withdraw.

Dennis-

So far, I haven't done anything, but it keeps happening. I keep facing the same temptations. I'm afraid one of these times; I *won't* stop it before it goes too far.

Tony-

Isn't that why you came to me in the first place? Do you still want me to hold you accountable?

Dennis-

Of course. If I didn't have you checking up on me, it would be really easy to give in. I mean, if you weren't looking over my shoulder, I know I'd buy into the lie that, 'No one will ever know'.

Tony-

You're right. That *is* a lie from the pits of hell. Because you would know. She would know and God would know. And eventually the guilt would change your behavior and then Jenny would know, or at least suspect.

Dennis-

She already suspects something and I haven't even done anything. She keeps asking what's wrong. I put her off and blame it on being tired or distracted by work stuff.

Tony-

Does she buy it?

Dennis-

Not really. Why should she? I am definitely distracted, but not by work stuff. It's been getting in the way of 'us' for weeks.

Tony-

How did you describe it last time, 'Conflicted and Convicted'?

Dennis-

Yeah, and I'm certainly both.

Tony-

Well that's good isn't it? If you weren't conflicted you'd see no reason not to give in and being convicted should assure you that the Holy Spirit is working to protect you from the evils of your possible choices.

Dennis-(*sarcastically*)

Yeah, it's just *great*. I'm kidding. I know the dangers and the consequences can't be good.

Tony-

So what are you going to do next time?

Dennis-

Next time? Do you mean next time I see her or the next time it happens?

Tony-

Either one.

Dennis-

I haven't thought about *next* time. I barely got through this time.

Tony-

Don't you think it will be easier to handle *next* time if you think about your actions and responses before you get there? Like rehearsing a play. If you know your lines and blocking, you'll be able to get through the scene. If you don't, you'll be ad-libbing all the way.

Dennis-

I never thought of it that way. But it makes sense. Maybe my excuse won't sound so stupid if I've already 'rehearsed' it.

Tony-

Exactly. Anything coming to mind?

Dennis-

Not yet. When it does, can I run it past you?

Tony-

Of course. That's why I'm here.

Dennis-

Thanks. It really is easier having someone to talk to about this stuff, you know, bearing each others burdens. Now, my turn to ask about a couple of *your* issues.

(Continues...)