

Phil Leeman and Associates

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Receptionists: (Over intercom) Mr. Leeman?

Phil: Yes.

Receptionist: There's a Mr. Paul A. Possel here to see you.

Phil: Paul? Paul is here!? By all means, send him in!

Receptionist: Yes sir.

Paul: (entering) Hello, Phil!

Phil: Paul, Its so good to see you! This is such a pleasant surprise! How are things on the mission field?

Paul: Let me tell you Phil, the Lord is blessing me more every day! You just would not believe the miraculous things I've seen Him do! Not that it's been easy, I've had a lot of hardships, but none of them can begin to compare with the blessings He has given me, not the least of which is seeing old friends like you! How have you been?

Phil: Just great Paul. But who knows where I would be today, if you hadn't shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with me so many years ago. And I'm so glad I've been given another opportunity to say "Thank-you".

Paul: No. Thank God.

Phil: Yes, of course. But I am just so grateful for your faithfulness and willingness to be used by God to save me.

Paul: Think nothing of it. Your care and friendship have been invaluable to me.

Phil: Well it's just a magnificent blessing to see you again. But, tell me, to what do I owe this blessing? Is there anything, anything at all I can do for you?

Paul: Well, actually, Phil, there's a fine young man of God who has been working with me, and I understand that he is a former employee of yours.

Phil: (Pleased) Oh really?

Paul: Yes, and I wanted to just talk with you about him, if you have a few minutes.

Phil: (With Pride) Oh yes! Yes, of course! By all means! I would be more than happy to! We have had many employees here that have gone on to bigger and better things. And more than a few, I'm pleased to say, that have left us to go into the ministry. Why, right off the top of my head, I can think of at least 3

pastors, 5 youth ministers, and more than a dozen that have gone into full or part time mission work. And, at the risk of sounding prideful, I like to think that the Christian attitudes, surroundings, and business practices exhibited here contribute in a small way to encouraging this trend. But you know, we do lose more good employees that way (laughs). Which one of the fine alumni of Phil Leeman and Associates did you want to talk about?

Paul: Well, his name is Joe Nessimus.

(Phil's eyes open wide and a strange look of horror grows on his face. He begins to quiver with just the mention of the name)

Phil: (Stuttering) Did you say Joe Ne... Ne... Ne...?

Paul: Joe Nessimus. I understand that he possibly left you on not the best of terms, and just wanted....(Noticing Phil's distress) Are you OK?

Phil: (Trying to collect himself) Y... Yeah just give me a minute. (put's his head in his hands, and rubs his face. Paul watches in confusion. After a few seconds, Phil takes a couple of deep breaths and manages to continue) I just want to say that I'm really, really sorry. If there was anything I could do to make up for anything he's done to you I would. But I also want to say that it's really not my fault. As a matter of fact, my legal department requires that I give out this statement whenever the name Joe Ne.... Joe Ne....., whenever his name comes up. (Pulls a file and hands Paul a sheet of paper from it)

Paul: (reading) "To whom it may concern: May it be hereby known that Joe Nessimus is no longer an employee and has absolutely no association with Phil Leeman And Associates, LLC. May it be further understood that any action Mr. Nessimus takes, whether criminal, unethical, or immoral, is taken without any knowledge, consent, or approval of anyone even remotely associated with said corporation. Therefore, neither Phil Leeman and Associates, nor any of its affiliates and subsidiaries, shall be held liable for any damages caused by Mr. Nessimus. This exclusion to liability shall include but not be limited to: theft by taking, embezzlement, slander, libel, and cruelty to small animals." (Looking up) So I gather that Joe Nessimus wasn't someone you would have considered a model employee.

Phil: Model Employee!/? You mean Joe "*Messimus*", Joe "*Uselessimus*"? Why that guy is the laziest, most incompetent, thievenest, bum that ever set foot in this building! And those are his *good* points! It got to where I was better off when he was goofing off. At least I knew he probably wasn't destroying anything! We're still trying to straighten out some of the messes he made. I think that boy could have broken an anvil with a rubber hammer! And if that wasn't bad enough, when we finally got rid of him he took half the company with him! Tell me Paul, How did *you* get mixed up with a good-for-nothing like Joe Nessimus?

Paul: Well to tell you the truth, Phil, Joe has become one my dearest friends, and most trusted assistant.

Phil: (Pauses, staring at Paul in shock) Are we talking about same man?

Paul: To tell you the truth, Joe hit rock-bottom a few months ago and he didn't know where to turn. He said that he remembered hearing you talk about me and that he wanted me to give him the same thing I gave you. Of course I explained to him that the only thing I did was introduce you to Jesus Christ and it was Jesus who had made such a great difference. You *do* remember what your life was like before you became a Christian, don't you, Phil?

Phil: Oh yes, of course I do! But you just can't realize what a good-for-nothing this guy is! I'm afraid he's just pulling the wool over his eyes. What else did he say?

Paul: Well, actually, that's why I'm here. He wanted me to ask you for a favor.

Phil: (Ranting) A favor! Joe Nessimus wants a favor from me! Sure! Why not!? He's already stolen almost everything I have! But what else could he possibly want!? I know..... the shirt off my back! He wants the shirt off my back! (Starts to unbutton his shirt)

Paul: Phil! Calm down! Joe's really changed!

Phil: Changed!? I can believe that. After all, he just about single-handedly changed a thriving business into a pile of rubble!

Paul: Now listen, you know as well as anyone what can happen to a person when the Holy Spirit starts working on him. If anyone is in Christ, he's a new creature. (to himself) Hey that's pretty good. I need to write that down.

Phil: (With internal struggle) Yes, I know your right..... What does Joe want?

Paul: To begin with he wants to chance to seek your forgiveness.

Phil: (Reluctantly) OK.... I'd guess I'd be the worst kind of hypocrite if I wasn't willing to forgive after receiving so much forgiveness. Tell him I'll be glad to talk to him..... What else?

Paul: Well, he wants a chance to make up for some of the damage he's done. He wants to come back to work for you, just long enough to pay you back.

Phil: (Shocked) He wants to what!? You can't be serious!

Paul: Phil, I really believe that this is the right thing to do!

Phil: (Puts his head in his hands and sobs) No, no, no.....

Paul: I'll tell you what, whatever he fails to pay back, or whatever more damage he causes, I'll cover it myself.

Phil: (Looking up) You're really *that* sure he's changed?

Paul: Yes. I am. As a matter of fact, I'm not sure how I'm going to get along without him. But I know he needs to make things right with you.

Phil: (Heavy sigh) Well..... I don't know where I'd get a better guarantee than that, and we really are a little short handed right now.....OK, consider it done.....Listen, Paul, I want to take you to lunch. Just let me make one quick call.

Paul: Sure.

Phil: (Picks up phone) Norm?.....How are ya?.....Good!..... Listen, one of our former employees is coming back and I wanted you to get the paperwork together.Joe Nessimus.....(trying to get a word in) Norm?....Wait....I know, but..... Norm?..... Calm down..... Norm!.. You just don't realize how much a person's life can really change once the Holy Spirit gets a hold of him. We'll talk about it after lunch..... Ok, Norm just try to keep an open mind....Ok, Bye. (To Paul) Some people can be just a little stubborn.

Paul: You got that right, Phil.

Phil: Well what are you in the mood for? (They talk as they exit)

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