

Few Find It – by Donna Douglass

Scene #2 – Encouragement from Ezer Kenegdo

“Hi, Barry,” Murray answered his cell phone just after dinner with his family the next evening.

“Hey, Murray. I need to apologize. I’m still at work, and I’m going to need to come in early tomorrow. We have a big case going on right now...”

Murray allowed some of his disappointment to show in his voice. “That’s okay. I’m sorry we’re not going to follow up with some of the things we talked about yesterday morning, but I’ll look forward to talking more whenever we can. Are you free on Saturday morning to ride and run?”

“No, Betty wants to go down to the lake with the kids. Says I don’t spend enough time with the family if we stay around here.”

“Next Tuesday, then?”

“That will work. I’m looking forward to it.” Barry was starting to sound distracted. Murray took his cue.

“I’ll call you Monday to make sure. Have a good weekend.” Murray hung up the phone and sat for a moment.

“Are you okay?” his wife Mindy asked.

“Yeah,” he replied, his voice heavy. “I was so excited that Barry might finally be getting interested in spiritual things and now his work is taking over his life again. You know how much that hurts his family. I hate to see him do it, but I don’t know what I can say.”

“We just need to keep praying for them and befriending them when God gives us the opportunity, right? I’m really glad you rearranged your training plan so you could ride with him

twice a week. I know that was a huge sacrifice for you, but God's starting to use it already, isn't He? You guys had a great talk yesterday morning." She thought back to the hours they had spent trying to put together a training plan that allowed Murray to ride on the same days Barry did so that they could ride together. It had meant giving up his men's Bible study, but Murray was convinced that God wanted him to do that for Barry's sake. "Remember the story the pastor told a couple weeks ago, about the prisoner who was about to be executed in England years ago? The preacher tried to get him to repent by telling him the gospel and he rejected it so vehemently. He said that if it really were true, he'd be willing to crawl across England on broken glass if that's what it took for everyone to hear it." She paused. "Honey, it's worth it."

Murray nodded. "I know, sweetheart. It just seems so hard to be 'fully committed' and to do 'whatever it takes' like the pastor talked about." (2 Chronicles 16:9)

Mindy went over and sat on his lap. "Well, that's a good sign, right? Jesus said we'd have trouble in this world and that if we belonged to the world it would love us and things would go great." (John 15:18-19, 16:33) "So take that as a clue that you're on the right side of the battle. Why not celebrate yesterday's victory with Barry and let God work on him for a while. If God wants him, He'll get Him..."

"I know," Murray finished for her, "God's will is always done: 'the plans of the Lord stand firm forever'." (Psalm 33:11)

"Yup," Mindy smiled. "And His word *always* accomplishes that for which He sent it – Isaiah 55:11, right?"

Murray laughed. "I love having such a great sword-maiden for a wife! What would I do without you?!"