

# *Jesus Can Remove the Sting*

The woman prayed so beautifully for my friend... Where did this unexplained “ache” in my heart come from at the sound of her name? It’s like a hook, that catches my heart. We worshipped together, attended Bible Studies and shared burdens, we shared coffee and laughed together. She was as close as a sister, bearing a special place in my heart. One of the painful aspects of ministry/leadership is sometimes friends, people you love, leave the church. It is pain-filled.

Often, we become closer to our church friends than our own biological family. Seeing them leave the church is like seeing family walk out the door. Processing the hurt is hard. It seems easy to give her ‘name’ to Christ and march forward. However, I don’t believe forgiveness has gone quite deep enough when there is a reoccurring ache at the sound of her name. Sometimes I wrestle with the question, “What is a natural response of hurt or should I say love, and when do I need to go deeper with Christ?” I believe whether it be natural or spiritual, it is still hurt, and Jesus desires that we give our relationships to Him, not just in name.

He desires every hurt, every word, every phrase, every conversation, action, and situation as it arises in our soul. The hurts may be an accumulation of things, creating a tangled web, but Jesus desires to speak truth into our hearts when we take time with Him. He desires to search our hearts, showing us where there are lies in which we may be entangled. There is forgiveness for every heart. Jesus desires to remove the sting of broken relationships and bring healing for the hardest aches.

*Psalms 62:8 “O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge”*