



***“May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus,  
because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.”  
2 Timothy 1:16***

When someone asked me what Bible character I would like to be like, I quickly answered “Onesiphorus!”

The man looked a little shocked at my response; after all, Onesiphorus’s name sounds like some kind of disease, and he was certainly one of the most obscure characters in the Bible. But even though he is only mentioned once in all of Scripture, he has been one of my heroes for a long time.

You see, Onesiphorus was a friend to Paul when he was in prison and nearly everyone else had deserted him. Onesiphorus’s visits “refreshed” the weary preacher, and Paul never forgot that thoughtfulness. Onesiphorus encouraged Paul by letting him know someone remembered him and cared for him.

So that being said let me ask you “Have you visited someone in prison lately?” Maybe you don’t know anyone who is locked up behind bars, but remember there are many kinds of prisons. Someone you know may be locked in a prison of despair because a loved one has died, or a child is estranged. Others may be imprisoned by depression or illness. Sometimes you have to search out a friend who’s dropped from sight, just as Onesiphorus searched for Paul until he found him in prison.

To be a friend today, we can’t always wait for an opportunity that’s convenient or close to home. It takes some effort to be an encourager to the brokenhearted. The only question is, will we make the effort to be just that?

**Prayer:**

**Lord, you are the great Comforter. Help us to be a friend to someone who needs some refreshment today. Help us to remind them that someone truly does care. Amen**