

Title: The Lone Ranger - Romans 16 1-16

Read:

¹⁻²Be sure to welcome our friend Phoebe in the way of the Master, with all the generous hospitality we Christians are famous for. I heartily endorse both her and her work. She's a key representative of the church at Cenchrea. Help her out in whatever she asks. She deserves anything you can do for her. She's helped many a person, including me. ³⁻

⁵Say hello to Priscilla and Aquila, who have worked hand in hand with me in serving Jesus. They once put their lives on the line for me. And I'm not the only one grateful to them. All the non-Jewish gatherings of believers also owe them plenty, to say nothing of the church that meets in their house. Hello to my dear friend Epenetus. He was the very first follower of Jesus in the province of Asia. ⁶Hello to Mary. What a worker she has turned out to be! ⁷Hello to my cousins Andronicus and Junias. We once shared a jail cell. They were believers in Christ before I was. Both of them are outstanding leaders. ⁸Hello to Ampliatus, my good friend in the family of God. ⁹Hello to Urbanus, our companion in Christ's work, and my good friend Stachys. ¹⁰Hello to Apelles, a tried-and-true veteran in following Christ. Hello to the family of Aristobulus. ¹¹Hello to my cousin Herodion. Hello to those who belong to the Lord from the family of Narcissus. ¹²Hello to Tryphena and Tryphosa—such diligent women in serving the Master. Hello to Persis, a dear friend and hard worker in Christ. ¹³Hello to Rufus—a good choice by the Master!—and his mother. She has also been a dear mother to me. ¹⁴Hello to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and also to all of their families. ¹⁵Hello to Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas— and all the followers of Jesus who live with them. ¹⁶Holy embraces all around! All the churches of Christ send their warmest greetings!

Think:

Are you the quiet type who likes being on their own. Maybe you're the independent type who relies on no one other than themselves. That was me, I was a lone ranger. I needed and trusted no one. If it needed doing then I was quite capable of doing it thank you very much. It all began at school for me. School was rubbish, always trying to fit in, but never really making it and worse still, being bullied instead. So that's when I started to trust no one and rely only on myself. Soon enough college came and I wasn't going to let a repeat of school happen. So once again, I depended only on me. And if you didn't like that then that's was tough. So eventually Jesus got through my thick skull and I realised I was loved by him and gave my life to Jesus. That was just the start. Suddenly I realised just like Paul in this passage, there were loads of people who wanted to help me. There were loads of new friends who just wanted me to open up to them and trust them to help me. It took me a long time to let the walls I had built up be broken down, but once I did what a relief and what a blessing all my mates are to me. Now I have many mates who I can trust and who trust me. I have friends galore who help me, and who are happy to call me for help when they need it. I often wish that I had let these people into my life sooner. Oh well, at least you aren't that thick headed. Are you?

Pray:

Lord I thank you for all my friends that you have put into my life. Father I ask that you help me to identify the people you want me to trust more. Amen.

Action:

Do you need someone to trust? Maybe school or college are rubbish for you just like they were for me. Do something about it today. Speak to a Church leader and ask for help, now. Cheerio.