

Truth and the Hollywood go-go dancer

She made her living dancing at a Hollywood go-go club on Sunset Boulevard. We never saw her perform. As soon as she began attending church services, the Lord started changing her life. We never told many people at church about the young woman's livelihood. We didn't want her past to be a stumbling block for her, or to arouse wrongful inclinations in others.

Her greatest problem at the present was her husband. He had been a professional boxer. Now he "boxed" only his wife. He pummeled her regularly.

As she came to know Jesus and hoped for a better life, she realized that she had to get away from him. She asked for our assistance. She stayed with us and our children for a while, then we helped her leave town on the bus one afternoon.

That night, about 2:00 AM, our phone rang. Her husband had discovered my business card, called the church number, and insisted that the answering service ring through to our home. He demanded to know where his wife was. I considered my answer carefully. I feared for his wife's safety, for my family's, and for my own. I hedged when I told him that I didn't know. We knew where she was headed, but I reasoned that it was all right to say that I didn't know where she was at that particular moment. After threatening he would hold me responsible if he found out I had helped her, he hung up.

Remembering that late-night conversation always helps me when I'm inclined to pass judgment on others who have trouble telling the truth under trying circumstances. In fact, Rahab, the Jericho harlot told a similar "untruth" in order to save the two Israelites spies, (see Joshua 2, 6:22-27; Hebrews 11: 31).

"Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful,"

James 2:13.