

Relationships- Family #12

AT Snacks-- January 26, 2025

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Monday:

My focus is shifting from the day to day pastoral ministry to spending more time working on what I do here today and my focus toward putting (pouring) my life into spiritual sons and daughters, into investing heavily in the next generations, as well as leaders and leadership groups wherever they might be.

I'm very serious about getting the DNA that the Father has released in our house imparted into these coming along after us. I'm calling this group the Young Lions. I'm willing and eager to give the younger generation everything I have, and will be looking to some in this group to shoulder some responsibility in terms of facilitating all the logistics involved with these meetings.

We believe that in our whole area, and in the whole world, there is only one church. It's not just us. We are all one in Christ. We're all on the same team.

What's happening right now in the world, on this planet, will be known as the greatest spiritual awakening of all times; that's happening right now. So, it's a time to saddle up, get off the bench, find your place, and get involved. Don't miss this time.

It's in your relationships where you're going to find the greatest joy in your life at the end of your life. It's not going to be how much money you made or how famous you were. You are going to realize that what has made your life rich is the relationships that you've been involved in along the way. So, make the mental adjustment and put the priority on relationships.

How are you doing in loving other people? Because, in the final analysis, it's going to come down to that one question. How did you do? Were you able to love like Jesus loved?

It's in the context of those relationships that you have the awesome opportunity to learn how to love like Jesus loved. That's the key. We have to roll our sleeves up and work on that one our own life.

We talked last week about the fact that everybody gets hurt, lied to, gets overlooked, ignored and betrayed. It's universal. What are you going to do with that? Are you going to hold a grudge, go into a shell, get hurt, fall back into depression, and stay there the rest of your life? What are you going to do with that?

I'll tell you what kingdom people do with it. The heroes are the ones who navigate betrayal and are able to keep their heart pure and uncontaminated. That's the challenge. You are going to need the help of the Holy Spirit to do that. **The heroes are able to lay their heart back out there on the line.**

Tuesday:

The Spirit of God wants to help you to get past any hurt, so you can get your heart out there on the line, because that's where the magic happens. When you get tested, this is good for you. James

writes, “*Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience*”. **God isn’t testing you so He can find out where you are in something. He’s testing you so you can see where you are.**

Find out what you’re supposed to learn in this situation, what needs to happen for you to be transformed some more into what we call a kingdom person. Submit to the process, no matter how painful you think it is. It’s good for you. It’s to make you better. The payoff is unbelievable.

What you are going through right now is nothing compared to the glory of God that’s going to be manifest and come to the surface in that situation. A lot of times, in the middle of your dilemma you can’t see the light, but it’s there, and God’s waiting on you to put your trust in Him, and let Him lead you through this set of circumstances.

You will probably be going through these kinds of things a lot in your life, so you need to decide right now that they’re good for you, because you’re being conformed into the image of Jesus. That’s God’s plan for you.

Discipline yourself to spend time with God. Be quiet, listen and learn how to deal with distractions. Don’t go there so you can get something from God. Go and take time and not have any agenda. The prize is not what God gives to you or what God says to you. The prize is His presence. That what really shapes you and forms you. The thing you can’t miss is how much God loves you.

There are times sitting on my porch where I just couldn’t do anything but weep. That’s a good thing. Don’t pray me out of that.

How many of you have noticed that all relationships hit a rough spot? If you are spending much time with someone, somewhere along the way, there are problems. **Please read Matthew 5: 22-24.**

If a problem comes up between you and anyone, first be reconciled to your brother. That’s the biblical way of how that’s supposed to happen if the relationship hits a rough spot. If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.

In a church built on relationship, obviously that’s where the enemy is going to level his attack. The enemy is only going to torment you as much as you allow him to. You have authority over him.

Wednesday:

We teach people around here not to use spiritual warfare as defense. So when you get something used against you- doubt, fear, or confusion, get on the offensive. Simply speak these doubts, fears and confusion back into the camp of the enemy. We all have the authority to do that.

The biblical order to reconciling with your brother if a problem arises:

- Take the problem to your brother alone. Be humble and try to work through it. Hopefully, you have gained your brother.
- If that doesn’t work, take one or two with you, “*that by the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established*”.
- If your brother refuses to hear them, this would be a good time to involve the church leadership.

This is what I call the relationship reset: God is sovereign in relationships.

God wants you to know the people you have relationships with. There has been a chain of miraculous things, events and circumstances in your life for God to get you to this place.

God is so serious about our relationships that He helps move you around in your life until you discover your people, your tribe, those that you experience a kindred spirit with.

We are serious about praying in the people that God wants to be a part of this house. And we pray for all of the other churches and other pastors, because we are all on the same team. If God puts you with somebody, then there's something more important than maybe we can understand at surface value.

You didn't end up in Sayre, Oklahoma by accident.

When people cooperate, magic happens. It's unbelievably challenging, it's an adventure, it's frustrating. The greatest joy comes in relationships, and also the greatest frustrations come through relationships.

Thursday:

Positive benefits of relationships: Companionship, friendship, gaining somebody else's perspective. God puts people in your path to make you better.

God has put tremendous value on relationships.

God has put tremendous value on the relationship, so we need to put the same value on them that God has, even if we don't understand what the relationships are fully about. You won't know what they're about until you give yourself to them.

The Father has placed these people in your life as one of the challenges. What does he bring to the table?

Part of your life is to figure what part of the body you fit into, how you're gifted, and the talents that God has given you. God has blessed you so you can be a contributor to the whole body, working like it should.

The body of Christ in America isn't working very well because it's top heavy. It's all about the preacher, and /or the leadership team. **The whole body is not working in the church.** The church is never going to be the church until the body starts to function like it's supposed to.

What does this person offer, or bring into my life? Why is this person here? I'm asking you to stop and think about the relationships, especially the problem ones. God has placed these people in our path who are hard to love, so you can kind of get an idea of what God has to deal with you.

To value a relationship is to give it your attention, to make it a priority, valuing them.

You will have more joy in your life than you can even imagine through relationships, but they will be challenging. They will test you to the very core, but in that is the opportunity to become like Jesus in your relationships and in your love for other people.

Friday:

God never puts two people or entities together just for what one can benefit the other. You are not in the relationship just for what you can give that other person. For ministry people, a lot of times, they'll cross that imaginary line where they think they're more important than they really are, like they are God's gift to that person.

In all relationships, given enough time, there's problems.

Our culture has taught us to forsake the relationship. People have a problem with someone else over getting mad and they leave. How immature! Presently, the church is not better than the world is at this. WE MUST CONSIDER THE RELATIONSHIP MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PROBLEM.

Some people tend to get offended, no matter what you say to them. To that person, you need to grow up. There's no room for people who have been around the church their whole life and still act like that. There's no excuse for that. That's embarrassing. God must look at that and go, "*It makes Me tired*".

"What God has joined together, let no man put asunder". Don't let that get away. Make that a priority.

Anytime you make the problem more important than the relationship, the relationship is in trouble.

We live in a world, even in the church, of disposable relationships. It must really grieve the heart of the Father.

We don't talk about forgiveness enough. Forgiveness is one of the most powerful, most spiritual things that you can do. Think about this; The most powerful spiritual thing that God did for you was to forgive. What if we didn't have that? When you forgive, it's proof you're becoming like Jesus.

Saturday:

Some of you may need to forgive someone who betrayed or hurt you, and you have held a grudge against them even after they died. Just speak it out. "I just forgive them". Don't let the enemy talk you out of that.

We must have a heart for reconciliation to reconcile.

You have to have a heart to make it right, because those things can really weigh heavy on you. You're carrying a load you don't have to carry. They distract us. It negatively affects everything we do until

it's fixed.

When two people can get together, discuss, and they can come to us and say, "You know what, we need a mediator to help us through this." We do that a lot. I'm all for that. Both parties need to submit their heart to God, because God wants to do a heart work in these situations.

If you put it off, it doesn't get any better. Jordan Peterson say this, "Conflict avoided, postponed, ignored or overlooked is conflict multiplied". It doesn't go away. It gets bigger. When we refuse to work for reconciliation, nobody wins.

There's always a solution. Always, 100% of the time, so figure out what the solution is, and walk it out. There's always a solution in the Kingdom economy, where everybody wins.

Agree to walk through the problem. It may take weeks, months, or years. Keep walking through it. Give the Lord easy access to your heart, because that's where it happens.

God is after the heart. The safest thing you can do is throw open the doors of your heart and say, "Lord, have at me".

The payoff:

God not only restores that relationship or relationships, but He restores them and makes them stronger and better than they were before.

If you'll do these things, you'll have an incredible, unbelievable life, and the Kingdom of God comes like it's supposed to come. Remember, it's only in the context of our relationships that we have the awesome opportunity to learn to love like Jesus.