

Relationships- Family #14

AT Snacks-- February 9, 2025

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Monday:

If I could say one thing to you, it would be, *“Learn to relate to God as Father. Interact with Him. You’re His hand picked son or daughter”*.

People ask me why I spend so much time on relationships. Matthew 22:37-39 says, *“Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself”*.

I’ve never seen the Kingdom of God be manifest to the degree that I’m seeing it happen now. There’s an awakening happening all over the world, which is helping your mind and thoughts to be drawn to the Lord.

This generation, I believe, has the opportunity to see the greatest move of God that’s ever been on the planet. Are you interested in being involved in something like that? If so, you need to get in gear for that now, and not somewhere down the road, or somewhere off there in the sweet by and by.

God is putting a high value on the relationship. We must do the same. If I make the problem more important than the relationship, the relationship is in trouble. So what do you do? You put the value on the relationship. You come to the table, you sit down, you get the Holy Spirit involved, and you talk and work through your situation.

I’m embarrassed about how weak the whole body of Christ is in doing that very thing. We owe it to ourselves, to the other person, and to the world as kingdom people to make this thing look different.

Kingdom people always desire and they’re always open for reconciliation. As kingdom people, we have a God given mandate and responsibility to fight for our relationships. You have to really put it to the test. It’ll nearly destroy you in the process, but it will take away those things that need to be dealt with in your life.

Tuesday:

It’s in the context of these relationships that you have the awesome opportunity to learn to love like Jesus did. God’s in a real talkative mood, but you have to get in a listening mood, or it might not happen for you.

When He has your heart and you make it a priority to hear Him, you will hear Him in some way, some form or fashion. That’s a guarantee. If you are not hearing Him, spend some time with Him. Get the distractions out of the way. Listen to Him. **Spend time with the Lord.**

Do you really want to walk with the Lord in this season that I’m talking about? You have to make it a priority and make it important in your life.

If you really want to walk with the Lord in this season, get prepared to get uncomfortable. It gets that way when you get out of your comfort zone. I saw somebody's quote awhile back, "*The comfort zone is where dreams go to die*".

Life is really an adventure. It's in that hard and uncomfortable stuff, where we learn the most. The more I exercise faith in my uncomfortable times, the easier it gets.

As much as we can and will always hope, pray and contend for reconciliation, some relationships just won't make it. Some things that cause that: too much damage in the relationship, or it maybe just wasn't meant to be.

The kingdom person has a responsibility to contend for the relationship. You might have to back off if the Lord instructs. But keep your heart open for reconciliation. Keep on forgiving. Set your heart to forgive, even before any situation or offense comes up. Being a really good forgiver takes practice.

Wednesday:

Everybody gets betrayed in their life, and some people never get over that. Some people get over it and learn how to live, but they never put 100% of their heart back out there in any of their relationships, because they got hurt so badly.

God's not like we are, and He doesn't want us to be like that. He wants us to put our whole heart out there on the line every time.

It's important that you don't let your heart get contaminated by the hurts that have happened to you in your lifetime. Keep your words wholesome toward the other person. Don't talk negatively about that other person. Don't try to sway other people over to your side. If someone brings it up, own your own mistakes, learn your lesson, and allow the Lord to adjust your heart.

Don't take the easy road out when relationships get a little tough. That's not how kingdom people think. Take this thing to the Lord. You and Him, wrestling through these things.

Here are some things to consider. Is this relationship hindering your spiritual growth, or pulling you away from God? Is this relationship built on kingdom principles of love and grace? Do you feel trapped in this, or free? Is this relationship constantly filled with conflict and drama? Again, keep your heart open for reconciliation.

Please read Colossians 3: 12-17. This scripture sets the tone for the rest of this message.

I'm not teaching 14 weeks on this so that you can develop a theory or two, and use it somewhere down the road. That's what church people do. But kingdom people put it to use right now. Are you a church person or a kingdom person? Assuming you're a kingdom person, the Spirit of God will work those things out in you so that you can think with a kingdom mind, and not with a tiny, little limited church mind.

Have you noticed that my notes are sometimes three or four pages now? I'm doing extra notes, not for me, but for you. If you're getting those notes, you're getting more than 99% of the Body of Christ in the whole world is getting.

Thursday:

We are supplying you with the AT Snacks that are excerpts from last week's message, and Digging Deeper, where they are going over notes from today. We have Life Class on Sunday morning, where they're going over stuff that we talk about here. We do these things so we can establish the Word in you, so you can get moving in what God's calling you to do now.

If Christians are not careful, they can get suspended between what He used to do and what He's going to do. Kingdom people put their heart, mind, soul and effort into what God is doing now. That's what we do here. Kingdom people live it out. **Are you living it out?**

We are not trying to find a comfortable spot where there's no challenges. We're digging in, refocusing, and getting in our place to cooperate with the Father to turn this thing around. You're involved in helping to change the world to be like God wants it to be. It doesn't get any simpler than that.

If you're a kingdom person, you have to stop acting like a church person because you think God can't do something with somebody like you. Well, join the club.

God's not looking for people who can do something. He's looking for people whom He can do something with. You have to let Him. You have to know He wants to. You have to apply yourself.

If you are looking for a church that's got it all figured out, if you are looking for a church that's got everything in place where everybody's perfect, looks good, smiles and doesn't have any problems, you're at the wrong place. We have problems of every kind around here. We're just learning how to work through those in a kingdom way.

What are you learning in your relationships? If you are not careful, you'll be on autopilot, and you'll keep on doing what you've always done in your relationships. And nothing ever changes.

You have to decide if this is something that you're going to do. This is the thing that will make your life rich. It's challenging, it's hard, awkward and tough to deal with, but this is where the greatest joy in life is found, is in your relationships.

Friday:

If the Kingdom of God doesn't work in your little situation, or maybe a big situation, like how you're going to make your car payment, or what you are going to do about this doctor's diagnosis...if the Kingdom of God can't come there, it can't come anywhere.

Whatever dilemma you find yourself in, ask yourself this question, "*Who's the kingdom person in this picture*"? If you'll engage and do what we are talking about, the kingdom will come. That's a guarantee. So quit complaining, even if you're going through the hardest thing you've ever gone through.

God isn't picking on you. You didn't do anything wrong, and God's not throwing a lot of judgment on you. Come on, get out of that. That's a dumb church mindset and is so immature.

Have you thanked the Lord for this situation? If you will open the door of your heart and say, "*Lord, I*

give you my heart”, if you open up and really desire it, God’s going to mess with everything in you that’s not like Jesus. We have issues and baggage that He wants to work on.

Acts 14:22 says, “*Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, We must, through many tribulations, enter the Kingdom of God*”. We must go through many trials, hardships and challenges. They are intense, heavy, draining and distracting, but they’re necessary.

If you can see that, and if you can say, “*Thank You*” in the middle of that, by faith, the stress and the cortisol flood in your system starts to go away, and those good neurotransmitters, dopamine and oxytocin, are released in you. And all of a sudden the bad feelings start dropping off, if you can see it as a good thing. It happens on a spiritual level, which is a baseline of who you are.

Saturday:

These young couples are getting tested like I’ve never seen before. All God is doing is just following through with what I believe He’s been saying to us. He’s getting the next generation. He’s helping them to work through a lot of this junk that we all have to work through, so they can be functional contributors in the greatest move of God there’s ever going to be.

If you get a revelation of why you’re here, it’ll mess you up for life in a good way. This is real stuff on how to live and how to get the most out of life. It’s hard, awkward, and sometimes scary. It even seems impossible sometimes, but God’s going to test you, to see if you’re really all in.

Are you getting your priorities in order? My job is to tell you this, that your job is not the most important thing. And if your job is going to be more important, you’re going to have a lot of struggles.

I think what God wants to do in you is a lot more important than what He wants to do through you. It’s more important for me as a leader to teach people who they are rather than what they should do, because if you know who you are, you’ll do what you’re supposed to do.

Are you willing for God to interrupt you, to go do what you believe He’s telling you to do? Because it has to be done by faith. If you say “yes” and you really mean it, I don’t think He’ll have to do it with you that much. He just needs the willingness for you to be available whenever He needs you.

Are those things with people and relationships important enough for you to do, to get up and go, even in the middle of the night? Or are you going to call somebody like me to go do it? What really works is for you to embrace being equipped for the work of the ministry. If you say “yes” to that, I bet there will be a test pretty quickly for you.