



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Joe Knows

ENCOURAGEMENT

Message preached on Sunday Morning, April 28, 2024

Our goal, as Christians, should be to do things according to the Word...if the Word says it...we need to be doing it.

We need to be like Christ.

John 8:3-11

- 3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,
4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.
5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?
6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.
7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.
8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.
9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.
10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, **Woman, where are those thine accusers?** hath no man condemned thee?
11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: **go, and sin no more.**

This account rose up inside of me to define who Jesus was...is!

This lady WAS GUILTY...WRONG...SINFUL...CAUGHT...and she was sure that she was going to get stoned.

But Jesus didn't say He didn't find any fault in her...He said He wasn't going to condemn her...so, go and sin no more is not a condemnation.

If you can imagine how BAD that lady felt about what she had been caught in and the shame she felt...

Now, a few minutes later imagine how relieved she was...uplifted she was...ENCOURAGED she was as she walked away.

The thing that rose up in me this week was the area of ENCOURAGEMENT.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NASB) – “Therefore, **encourage one another** and build one another up, just as you also are doing.”

If Jesus did it and His Word says we are to be doing it...beloved, it should be how we live life.

FRIDAY I watched Brother Jerry Savelle's homegoing service. Time and time again I noticed people mentioning how awesome it was to hang out with Jerry Savelle. His constant encouragement.

They would talk about how generous he was with his money...how attentive he was to visiting people and texting or calling them.

His daughter even noted that one of the last things he text her was to “not belittle the calling of God on her life.”

His LAST text before he went to heaven was to his office having them send money to help a person with a medical bill.

Listening to those stories confirmed what I was hearing, from the Lord, about the power and importance of encouragement.

2 Timothy 3:1-4 tells about the end-times...the times we are living in now...and describes the people as lovers of themselves, arrogant, lovers of money, slanderers, gossipers, etc.

Everything that is contrary encouragement.

It is interesting what we've allowed into the church...or kicked out...and encouragement is something we have basically kicked out of the church.

Whether it be on social media or even to their face...we are much quicker to FIND FAULT, CRITIQUE and CORRECT, and ATTACK others.

Just like David's brother in 1 Samuel 17...pointing out David's few sheep...David's desire to be BIG like his brothers.

The church has become a CTScan of everything that is wrong...Instead of God's report of everything that is right.

God is looking for HIS people to encourage others to reach their HIGHEST in life. You speak a kind word in due season.

***You never know when a common thought for you may be a
RED SEA moment for someone else.***

What is Godly Encouragement

The problem with encouragement is that we have mixed it up with allowing others to feel okay about their sins. Watering down the Word to make them feel good about what they've done.

I love that about Jesus...He refused to condemn, but He did say STOP SINNING.

Godly encouragement is not overlooking their shortcomings...or telling them it is okay...it is helping them to move past it to their destiny.

Godly encouragement...

- * Lifts someone's heart to the Lord...to see things His way.
- * Imparts GRACE to the believer.
- * Points a person to God's promises that assures them that all they face is under His power.

It is NOT really just a "you can do it" moment...it is a consistent, God is in you and is more than enough.

Son of Encouragement

Acts 4:36-37

36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

(NASB) – "Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),"

So this man's name is Joseph...yep, that is his name...but because of who he was and how he operated the apostles gave him a nickname.

It was not his last name...or similar to Simon Peter...it is just what they called him.

"Surname" – invoked, entitled, nicknamed

"Barnabas" – son of encouragement

He was so known for his encouragement...that they quit calling him Joe! It was his reputation. That tells you how much more than anyone else in the early church that Joe encouraged others. He was man, like Jerry Savelle, that **people liked to have around. They always left feeling better about themselves.**

Is it any wonder why he was promoted by God to evangelist from layperson?

As I was meditating on Joe...I was asking the Lord to show me how we can effectively encourage others...because, honestly for some of us it isn't natural, yet it is obvious it is essential. He just showed me through the life of Barnabas how to encourage.

1.) Be a giver. Give financial help.

In Acts it is said a couple of times that the early church had all things in common...they would sell things and bring the proceeds into the church to help with the whole church.

REMEMBER: The early church was full of people who had traveled to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost and ended up staying in Jerusalem to enjoy the early church. So they had no home, no stuff, and needed help.

HOWEVER: Joe was the first to be called by name in doing this. He loved those people SO MUCH that he sold it ALL and gave it ALL to help them out.

LISTENING to the stories of Jerry Savelle it was awesome to hear stories of him giving money to people. God told Kenneth Copeland to give a man a hundred dollars and Jerry Savelle was standing next to Brother Copeland and said, "I ain't missing this opportunity," and gave the man another hundred dollars. He was always sticking money in the pocket of friends and family.

Philippians 4:10-14

The church at Philippi encouraged Paul through their giving.

Money is definitely an encourager.

OLD QUOTE: "Put your money where your mouth is."

Someone is sad because of a financial debt and we say, "God can take care of it...trust Him."

WELL: How do you suppose God is planning on taking care of it...a money tree in their back yard? Go ahead and encourage them.

2.) Help kick start ministries.

When Paul got born-again and called to minister. God needed to hook him up with a brother, in the Lord, that could connect him to people and locations that were important...remember Paul had a horrible reputation with Christians. However, everyone was afraid of him...afraid it was a trap.

HOWEVER: Joe knows encouragement! He connected with Paul and traveled with him on his first missionary journey.

Barnabas also kickstarted John Marks ministry...which became so good that Paul called for him at the end of his life.

ZIG ZIGLAR: You can have anything in life that you want...if you just help enough other people get what they want.

Some of you are so focused on your gifting and your ministries...but if you would set your affections on kick-starting someone else's ministry, you may be surprised how quickly yours comes.

(**PERHAPS** us going to Pastor Lee's church to help him canvas his community.)

3.) Stick with them!

Don't give up on people...even if they have messed up.

Barnabas was essential in Paul's first missionary journey and as a part of that journey Barnabas brought with him his cousin John Mark.

However, halfway through the journey John Mark got tired or discouraged and left.

Fast forward to Paul's second journey (Acts 15:36) Barnabas wants to take John Mark again...but Paul is having nothing to do with that...at all!

So, Barnabas knows Paul will be okay...so he sticks with John Mark and helps his ministry get kick started...refused to give up on him.

2 Corinthians 7:4 (NLT) – “I have the highest confidence in you, and I take great pride in you. You have greatly encouraged me and made me happy despite all our troubles.”

We know the history with Paul and the church at Corinth. Paul had corrected them, etc...and what did they do? They stuck with him...and encouraged him when he was going through tough times.

Vs. 6 – They sent Titus to help him out and encourage him.

BELOVED: Stay connected! It is too easy to disconnect from people when we get frustrated, angry or disagree with them. Paul didn't write off the Corinthian church...and they didn't write off him.

Often, all someone knows is that there is someone who will keep standing and believing in them.

What if No One is Around?

I know many of you are asking...but it seems like I don't have an encourager for me...I need one and I am here all alone. What then?

1.) Refuse the temptation to blame others for not doing their jobs.

Don't allow yourself to get inward focused.

2.) YOU KNOW...sow!

IN OTHER WORDS: If you lack encouragers...perhaps you are not an encourager...therefore you don't have a harvest coming!

“Whatsoever you sow...you reap”!

YOU KNOW why David ended up with men around him to help him fight?

1 Samuel 22:1-2 – When he was in the cave of Abdullum...everyone with a problem showed up and led them.

3.) Encourage yourself IN THE LORD.

1 Samuel 30:6 – “And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but **David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**”

The Amalakites had plundered their homes and took their families and the men (including David) were distraught...they all took aim at David...David had NO ENCOURAGERES...so he encouraged himself in the Lord.

NOTICE: He didn't encourage himself, PERIOD. But in the Lord.

He didn't give himself a pep talk, “You can do it!”

“I'm good enough. I'm smart enough! And people really like me.”

It wasn't a fleshly pep-talk it was a spiritual encouragement.
How?

- a.) **Inquired of the Lord.**
Talked to God.
- b.) **Worship and praise.**
That was his life!
- c.) **Listened for the voice of God.**
Word!

Conclusion

Hebrews 3:13 (NASB) – “But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called “today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”