

Deal With The Stubborn

Introduction:

A. Welcome and Scripture Reader

1. ????
2. James 1:22-25

B. In this section of Joshua of the conquering campaigns

1. They experience great success.
2. However, there are those stubborn places and people that refused to budge.

C. You have those things in your life you wish were not there, but they seem to refuse to budge?

1. Stubborn sins, character flaws, dispositions, attitudes that keep coming up in our lives.
2. They become stumbling blocks to growth

D. Scattered and tucked away through several chapters, these verses paint a very telling picture of where the nation was heading.

E. Several principles from Joshua from four verses. We see what not to do with these stubborn places. Then we will and with what to do.

I What not to do with the stubborn

A. Don't Ignore It

13:13 *But the Israelites did not drive out the people of Geshur and Maakah, so they continue to live among the Israelites to this day.*

1. Avery's transmission. "Maybe it will get better over time"
2. Ignoring a problem is a common response of humans. Why?
 - a. Don't know what to do. Can't identify the problem much less the solution.
 - b. Scared of the reactions we may get.
 - c. The cost (emotionally, relationally) too great.
 - d. The work to address it too hard.
3. The unseen loyalty to unwritten behavior patterns, generational secrets and curses run deep.

4. Those stubborn sins, habits, attitudes that we know are problematic are often swept under the proverbial old rug.
 - a. We don't mention it.
 - b. Pretend it's not there.
 - c. Perpetuates behaviors over generations
5. Sweep enough things under the rug, eventually it's creates a stumbling block.
6. People of Gesher/Maacah
 - a. David marries one of the women from these people groups.
 - b. She is the mother of Absalom.
 - c. Killed his brother
 - d. Led a rebellion against his father.
7. Sin only worse over time. Don't ignore it.

B. Don't Embrace It

15:63 Judah could not dislodge the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the people of Judah.

1. We embrace the stubborn things in our lives when we say things like...
 - a. It's too much.
 - b. I'm too weak to handle this.
 - c. It's always been or It always will be a problem.
 - d. This is just the way I am.
2. So we give up and lean into whatever that stubborn character flaw, sin, or un-Christ like attitude.
3. What does it look like when a person embraces the stubborn things in their lives?
 - a. Cynical and skeptical attitudes turns to bitterness.
 - b. Independence and Control turn to manipulation
 - c. Anger turns to fits of rage
 - d. Addiction turns to death
 - e. Lust turns to adultery.

4. Relationally, it leaves a wake of brokenness in the lives of people.
5. Spiritually, it clouds our judgement.
 - a. Embraced sin and character flaws never make one a clear thinking.
 - b. What sounds like a good idea is really a justification for perpetuating bad behavior.
6. Song: Don't stop praying

C. Don't Repeat It (Don't Do What Was Done To You) –

16:10 They did not dislodge the Canaanites living in Gezer; to this day the Canaanites live among the people of Ephraim but are required to do forced labor. and 17:12-13 Yet the Manassites were not able to occupy these towns, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that region. However, when the Israelites grew stronger, they subjected the Canaanites to forced labor but did not drive them out completely.

1. They did to others what was done to them in Egypt
2. They thought they were controlling the people, when in actuality the people were ensnaring them.
3. Doing to others what was done to you only ties you tighter to your hurt.
4. When hurt people don't heal they hurt people.
5. Jesus would say do to other what you would have them do to you.
(verse reference) This leaves room for healing to take place. Leaves room for grace to be given and experienced

D. When we ignore, embrace, repeat we become ensnared in a tangled web.

II What to do with Stubborn things in our lives

A. Take A Long Look in...

1. Recognize there are things in my life that still need work.
2. When you see what you don't like don't...
 - a. Ignore it
 - b. Embrace it
 - c. Repeat it
3. We're never too old to become more like Jesus.

4. We're never not empowered or equipped to change into his image.

B. Take A Long Look Back

1. At the promises
 - a. Joshua 1:9
2. At the victories. Reoccurring theme in Joshua, the is the Lord's battle
 - a. Recall the weaponized worship from Joshua 6
 - b. The hailstones against the great armies of Canaan.
3. I've see you move, you moved the mountains and I believe, I believe you can do it again.
4. Trust the victory in the middle of the battle.
5. Stay humble remembering the battle and victories are his.
 - a. We get to looking around on good days and start to think look what I did, watch out.
 - b. We become disobedient and end up where these folks did.

C. Take A Long Look At The Gospel (Slide)

1. Romans 1:16-17 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*
 - a. The righteousness of God is revealed and applied to us who believe.
 - b. It addresses every problem of sin created: separation from God, physical death, and those life issues that plague us.
2. In the gospel we see the grace of God personified and demonstrated in Jesus.
 - a. It is this grace that teaches us to say no to ungodliness (it teaches us to say no to ungodliness (Titus 2:12).
 - b. We never grow in fear, we only grow in grace.
3. High priest
 - a. As our High Priest in Heaven, we have constant access to Heaven.

- b. Heb 4:14-16 - Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*
- 4. We are given the Holy Spirit –
 - a. We can't live the healing and transformation that is needed only happens with the Holy Spirit living in us
 - b. Rom 8:12-15 - Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." Holy People*
- 5. We are spiritually adopted into a forever family.
 - a. Anytime you see “one another” in the Bible, it's referring to forever family.
 - b. Google it and you will see things like love, support, encourage, speak truth, comfort, forgive.
 - c. All things done in the body of Christ.
- 6. The gospel address the sin, the character and attitude flaws, and hurts with grace, healing and help.

Conclusion:

- A. Be strong and courageous and deal with the stubborn things in our lives.
 - 1. As long as we are tied to this flesh, we will struggle.
 - 2. Some sins trenches/scars run deeper than others.
- B. Don't ignore, embrace or repeat but take the long looks that are needed and embrace Jesus..
- C. I was reminded this week that dealing with the stubborn things in our lives starts with surrender.

D. Only in the kingdom of God does surrender provide victory and freedom.

E. Offer invite...