

KNOWING WHEN THE RELATIONSHIP HAS RUN ITS COURSE!

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TEXT:

Acts 15:35-40 KJV

35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. 36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. 37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. 38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. 39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; 40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Acts 15:35-40 NIV

35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord. 36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord."

SUBJ: Knowing when the relationship has run its course!

INTRO: People of GOD, I believe one of the hardest things for us to do, is recognizing when we're in a relationship that has fulfilled its purpose OR run its course.

(NOTE: Whether it's a friendship, a ministry partnership, a business relationship, a close working relationship OR an emotional relationship with someone!)

Sometimes it's hard for us to recognize that the relationship is over and we struggle with distinguishing between PERSERVING and PROLONGING.

Sometimes we say we're persevering through some things, when the truth is we're prolong some things that GOD has already ended!

(EXP#) Sometimes we fear that ending a chapter and letting go, means we've somehow missed God's will.

But throughout Scripture, we find that God is a God of seasons. In fact about

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

Just because something ends, doesn't mean you missed GOD!

GOD begins some things and end some things!

GOD grows things and sometimes he cuts down some things!

(EXP#) Sometimes we think that walking away means we've given up, but the truth is, you have not given up, you're giving it up!

And there will come a time in your life when some of the people you've been walking with for a long time, will not walk with you no more and when that time comes you need to give up some praise to GOD.

(NOTE: I believe some y'all need to give GOD praise right now for some of the people who walk with you no more!)

(EXP#) Some of y'all had some people who were walking with you and Y'all spirits didn't agree anymore.

(EXP#) Y'all interest didn't align anymore.

(EXP#) Y'all objectives were not the same anymore.

(EXP#) Y'all desired different things in life.

(EXP#) Y'all were going in different directions.

And the thing that I've learned about why some of the people you can't walk with no more, is because it's hard for them to understand what GOD is about to do for you!

(NOTE: It's hard for them to understand the level that GOD is raising you up to! It's hard for them accept the calling that GOD has on your life.)

(NOTE: When people are not walking the same way you're walking, It's difficult for them to understand what GOD is doing in your life.)

John 6:64-66

64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. 66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

(EXPOUND) See it's hard for some of the people who are walking with you, to understand you when you tell them what GOD is getting ready to do in your life!

And the reason why it's hard for them to understand it, is because it's your destiny and not theirs.

(NOTE: Understand that everyone is not going to like OR agree with your Destiny!)

Genesis 37:5-8

5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

(EXPOUND) The reason why everybody doesn't agree with your Destiny, is because it's your Destiny! And when GOD shows you your Destiny and were he's bringing you too, don't expect everybody to agree with it, because they can't see it!

(EXPOUND) When Joseph told his brothers about his Destiny, they hated him for it because they couldn't understand it OR see it!!

(NOTE: When you tell people what GOD is doing for you, don't be surprised if they start hating on you!)

The Relationship Between Paul and Barnabas

The relationship between Paul and Barnabas began long before this disagreement.

When Paul was first converted, most believers feared him because of his former life as a persecutor.

It was Barnabas who believed in him.

Barnabas became Paul's advocate.

He introduced Paul to the apostles.

He defended Paul's testimony.

He opened doors that Paul could not open for himself.

Without Barnabas, Paul's ministry may have taken much longer to be accepted.

When the church in Antioch was growing rapidly, Barnabas traveled to Tarsus specifically to find Paul and bring him into ministry.

Their relationship became one of mutual labor.

Together they taught.

Together they fasted.

Together they worshiped.

Together the Holy Spirit called them into missionary work.

Together they endured rejection, persecution, imprisonment, and miracles.

Their friendship was forged in spiritual battle.

Yet even the strongest spiritual relationships are still relationships between human beings.

The Sharp Contention between them:

Verse 39 says,

"The contention was so sharp between them..."

It was so sharp, that Neither man was willing to compromise his conscience.

(NOTE: Yet notice what the passage does not say.)

(EXP#) It never says either man sinned.

(EXP#) It never says either man left the faith.

(EXP#) It never says they became enemies.

They simply separated their ministry assignments.

QUOTE: "Sometimes believers mistake every disagreement as rebellion, when sometimes it's just God redirecting people into different assignments."

Paul and Barnabas had reached a critical point in their relationship where they couldn't come to agreement!

How do you know when the relationship has run its course?

BODY:

#1 WHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BECOMES UNREPAIRABLE AND UNPRODUCTIVE!

(EXPOUND) You have to be willing to let some people go out of your life, when the relationship can't be repaired or produce in your life!

(NOTE: Some of y'all need to stop trying to force people to stay with you!)

(EXPOUND) If you're in a "Friendship" or a "Relationship" or a "FELLOWSHIP" and that "Ship" is not a repairable or productive ship, you need to abandon "Ship"!

You need to get off quick, fast and in a hurry! (MAN OVERBOARD!)

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

(EXPOUND) If both parties are not actively participating and agreeing, how can you do anything?

(NOTE: And that's what the devil wants to do, is keep you from walking in agreement together because he knows that between the two of you, there's too much power for him!)

James 3:16 For where envying and strife is , there is confusion and every evil work.

(EXPOUND) Where there's disagreement, there's the devil!

(NOTE: Because GOD is not the author of confusion!)

MARK 3:24-25

24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

(EXPOUND) A house that is divided cannot stand!

(EXP#) See, when the house is divided everybody is talking, but nobody is agreeing!

(EXP#) Everybody is moving and going, but nobody is together!

(NOTE: A house that is divided, is a house that's setup for destruction!)

#2 WHEN YOUR GOALS DON'T ALIGN, IT'S TIME TO REALIGN!

(EXPOUND) There are some people that you've been walking with and

they're not designed to walk into your future!

(NOTE: There's a level that GOD is about to bring you to and some of the people that you had around you were not meant to go where you're going.)

It was purposed by GOD for them not walk with no more!

Acts 15:39-40

39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; 40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

(EXP#) Some of y'all wondering why some things haven't broken through for you, it's because you have the wrong people walking with you!

(EXP#) Some of y'all wondering why you're not being blessed, it's because the people you hang with are a mess!

(EXP#) Some of y'all wondering why doors are not being opened to you, it's because you're trying to go through doors with the wrong people!

GOD said, "Before you can be elevated, you have to leave some people behind"

Genesis 12:1-4

1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

(EXPOUND) GOD told Abram to leave his people and go to another land and he'll bless him and the reason he told Abram to leave his people was because Abram believed in GOD, but his father believed in other gods.

(NOTE: So Abram had to cut the line!)

(EXP#) Some of y'all got some family members that you need to get from around!

(EXP#) You got some friends that you need to let go!

CONCLUSION:

(QUESTION) How to know when it's time to let some people go?

#1 When the relationship becomes unrepairable and unproductive!

#2 When your goals don't align, it's time to cut the line!

**#3 WHEN YOU NO LONGER HAVE PEACE
BETWEEN YOU, YOU NEED TO SAY PEACE BE
WITH YOU.**

(EXPOUND) When there's no more peace between us, we need to put some space between us!

Acts 15:35-40

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(EXPOUND) You have to be willing to let some people go out of your life because when you force people to walk with you, it's full of contention and empty of peace!

(NOTE: My peace is more important than anybody being my friend!)

Genesis 31:47-49

47 And Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. 48 And Laban said, This heap is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed; 49 And Mizpah; for he said, The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.

(EXPOUND) May the LORD watch between me and thee, while we're absent one from another!

