

RECESS - YARD DUTY, TAPTLING, TAPPING → HOW WE SEE CHURCH/PASTORATE / LE DO HAVE A SOF! ... BUT ..

DEALING WITH SIN

A LONG QUOTE - Paul Tripp - Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands

Sam called me in a panic. It had been an ordinary day: get up, go to work, and do his job until quitting time. But as he was rushing home, he was approached by a desperate man. The man said that his life was a mess; he didn't even know where he was going to sleep that night. Sam could tell that he wasn't a seasoned street person. Hoping to be a conduit of help, Sam took him home and called his pastor - me. "Paul," he said, "I came across this guy who lost his job, had a terrible fight with his wife, and was thrown out on the street. I thought I'd bring him over to your house so you could give him the help he needs. Is now okay?"

Before Sam could say anything else, I responded, "Isn't God's love amazing? God cares about this man and put one of his children in his path. God cares about you and has given you an opportunity to be an instrument in his hands. I am persuaded that God never gets a wrong address, and he intends to use you in this man's life. Let me pray for you right now, that God will fill your heart with his love and your mind with his wisdom." When I finished praying, Sam said, "But I don't think I am able..." I interrupted, "I will continue to pray for you tonight, and I will call you in the morning. I am so encouraged by your ministry to this man." I said goodbye and hung up the phone.

For the next several weeks, I stood alongside Sam, determined not to take over for him, as he learned how to love his desperate friend. He learned how to be a tool God could use to encourage change in someone's life. In the process, God changed Sam and his wife in some significant ways as well. I had pushed Sam out of the nest, but not because he lacked compassion. His problem was that he lacked courage. Sam had assumed that whatever this man needed was way beyond what he could offer. He didn't see himself as one of God's instruments, only as one of God's conduits - a passive channel connecting one thing to another. An instrument is a tool that is actively used to change something, and God has called all of his people to be instruments of change in his redemptive hands.

Embedded in the larger story of redemption is a principle we must not miss: God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things in the lives of others. What mission board, what ministry, what local church would use the people God used in Scripture? There was Moses (an exiled murderer), Gideon (fearful and hiding), David (the shepherd boy with no military training), Peter (who publicly denied Christ), and Paul (persecutor of the church), to name a few. Along with these are untold numbers of little people God used in big ways to fulfill his plan on earth. God never intended us to simply be the objects of his love. We are also called to be instruments of that love in the lives of others. → SHEEP PURSUIT

DEALING WITH SIN REQUIRES ABUNDANT EFFORT (MATTHEW 18:15-20) - WORDS OF JESUS!

ROAD ALL

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

① ALONE
"NOT MY PLACE..."
"SO BETTER GOSPEL BETTER?"
2 Corinthians 12:20 - For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish - that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.
James 1:26 - If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.
Ephesians 4:29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
YOU MUST GO TO THEM

② 2-3 WITNESSES
BRING OTHERS TO GIVE PERSPECTIVE + TO OFFER WITNESS
THE GOAL IS RESTORATION AND FORGIVENESS B/C GOSPEL DEMANDS IT

③ CHURCH
PUBLIC DEALING W/ UNREPENTANT UNRECORDED
JESUS STRESSING: THIS CAN'T EXIST IN CHURCH.
BURDEN GOES TO UNREPENTANT

④ BIND/LOOSE
THIS IS HARD, TAKES EFFORT.
- AS YOU EARNESTLY SEEK GOD'S WILL IN ALL THINGS, GOD WILL BLESS + BE PRESENT AS YOU DISCERN
- LOTS OF ROOM FOR FAILURE, BUT GOD'S GRACE COVERS BETTER THAN NOT TRYING!

DEALING WITH SIN REQUIRES ABUNDANT FORGIVENESS (MATTHEW 18:21-22)

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times." 3-7-7 → UNBENDING

TALLY = WRONG

TRUST / FORGIVENESS

- THIS REQUIRES KEEPING ♥ TENDER IN THE GOSPEL
- Hebrews 12:12-17 - Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.
- BITTERNESS IS SO POTENT IT WILL SHIPWRECK YOUR WHOLE FAITH.
- PAUL ALWAYS STRESSING THIS BECAUSE SOULS ON THE LINE.

DEALING WITH SIN REQUIRES ABUNDANT GRACE (MATTHEW 18:23-35)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. GB, 12K

"SEASONS"... BUT HOW LONG?

FOR SOME, ITS BEEN FAR TOO LONG

IF YOU ARE PERPETUALLY UNFORGIVING TOWARDS OTHERS, YOU MAY NOT BE A CHRISTIAN.

WHO GETS TO SAY THIS?
JESUS!

HE DEFINES LOVE + FORGIVENESS, NOT JS.

MAY WE WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS REC. + HEALINGS