

#1 - INTRODUCTION

I. A Culture of Shortcuts

1. The "Adulging" School

- (1) Did you know this opened up in Portland earlier this year?
- (2) Its purpose? To teach Millennials how to open a savings account, change a tire, cook a healthy meal, talk to people in social settings, how to get to work on time, etc.

2. Our joy is reflected in our confidence

- (1) A simplified understanding of faith

Heb. 11:1-3 - "Now faith is the assurance [confidence] of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

- (2) Last week: Confident God is with you. | This week: Confident God is for you.

Rom. 5:1-2 - "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope [in confidence] of the glory of God."

Jn. 15:11 - "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

- i. The implications of your unyielding confidence in God's favor, because of Jesus' work on the cross for you...the implications of knowing that He is now for you...is the fullness of joy.
- ii. Because what I know, and what the Bible teaches, is that every meaningful, substantial, and durable joy-producing enterprise...is never obtained by taking short-cuts. Because when you short-cut your faith, you short-cut your joy. And joy requires pain, conviction, dependance.

3. Our confidence is reflected in our legacy

- (1) It's one thing for me...but for others, I love?
- (2) Pain, conviction and dependance for me...but not for them.
 - i. Pain avoidance, not pain acceptance. Conviction that doesn't cost them favor. Independent, not co-dependent.
- (3) Are you confident that God is for you...and them?
 - i. Do you know what the implications for their life are to leave here everyday believing that's true? No.
 - ii. Do you know what it will cost them...and you...those enterprises which we believe will get them through this life...through the pain, past the loneliness, over the anxiety? No. I don't know all things it will cost them...but I know it will cost them the fullness of joy.
 - iii. Because what I know, and what the Bible teaches, is that every meaningful, substantial, and durable joy-producing enterprise...is never obtained by taking short-cuts. Because when you short-cut your faith, you short-cut your joy. And joy requires pain, conviction, dependance...not just for you, but for them, as well.

#2 - THREE SHORTCUTS PREVENTING OUR LEGACY

I. Shortcut #1: Pain Prevention

1. The More Pain Is Averted, The More God Is For Me (Comfort)

Matt. 4:1-4 - *"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

- (1) Ancient greeks believed pain was a sign of the gods' displeasure with them.
- (2) But, Jesus did not avoid pain.
 - (1) We don't seek pain, but we don't avoid it either.
- (3) When you're going through pain, you'll be tempted to short-cut your way out of it with a quick-fix. Some momentary comfort that produce a short-term high of some sort.
- (4) How do you say 'no' to that quick fix, to that easy off-ramp? Because that's what you do, when pain shows-up, and seems unrelenting, and the devil offers you a shortcut, but are CONFIDENT...God is for you.
 - i. Because what I know, and what the Bible teaches, is that every meaningful, substantial, and durable joy-producing enterprise...is never obtained by taking short-cuts. Because when you short-cut your faith, you short-cut your joy. And joy requires pain, conviction, dependance.

II. Shortcut #2: Crowdsourcing

1. The More Others Affirm Me, The More God Is For Me (Approval)

(1) Crowdsourcing: *the practice of obtaining information or input into a task or project by enlisting the services of a large number of people, either paid or unpaid, typically via the Internet.*

Matt. 4:5-7 - *"Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, He will command his angels concerning you, and On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

- (2) Jesus did not test God's favor, by crowdsourcing. In fact, going against the grain of populism, was often a bi-product of faith.
- (3) The crowd is always willing to offer you relief. A shortcut.
 - (1) Do what makes you happy! Avoid anything that doesn't!
- (4) How do you turn away from that? How do you resist? Because that's what you do, when pain shows-up, and seems unrelenting, and the crowd is willing to offer you relief, but only if you'll move your convictions ever-so-slightly...you resist because you are CONFIDENT...God is for you.
 - i. Because what I know, and what the Bible teaches, is that every meaningful, substantial, and durable joy-producing enterprise...is never obtained by taking short-cuts. Because when you short-cut your faith, you short-cut your joy. And joy requires pain, conviction, dependance.



III. Shortcut #2: Risk Management

1. The More I Have, The More God Is For Me (Security)

Matt. 4:8-10 - *“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”*

(1) He better be real confident...because He's giving up a lot.

(1) Jesus was willing to risk and lose, because He knew He really had nothing to risk and lose.

(2) Not the quantity of the provision, the quality of the provision (“all these”)

i. And the provision of the highest quality was God Himself.

ii. In the Gospel, we are secure because we have Christ.

iii. Everything - Jesus = Nothing. Jesus + Nothing = Everything

(3) Listen: God is for you...even when you have nothing else to anchor you. When you've lost everything important to you. It's not because He doesn't love you.

i. In fact, your loss may be a grace which requires you to cling to the One thing that will never leave you or forsake you.

ii. When you experience loss, you are at your most vulnerable. You'll be tempted to shortcut dependance on Jesus by further entrenching yourself in risk management and trust even more what you have, not Who you have. Quantity over quality.

(4) How do you not bow a knee in those moments? How do you not give-in? Because that's what you do, when pain shows-up, and seems unrelenting, and the crowd is willing to offer you relief, but only if you'll move your convictions ever-so-slightly, and it's tempting because you feel unsteady, unsure, and unsecured...but you stand-fast, when everyone else is bowing, because you are CONFIDENT...God is for you.

i. Because what I know, and what the Bible teaches, is that every meaningful, substantial, and durable joy-producing enterprise...is never obtained by taking short-cuts. Because when you short-cut your faith, you short-cut your joy. And joy requires pain, conviction, dependance.

#3 - THREE PARTS PRODUCING A LEGACY OF FAITHFULNESS

Matt. 4:11 - "Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him."

I. Leave Them A Response To Pain, Not Avoidance

1. Pain Is Unavoidable

Rom. 8:18-23

(1) Pain is part of the human experience, and therefore, cannot be avoided.

- i. Christopher Titus story
- ii. We let those we love, experience stage appropriate pain, so they aren't crippled by it later.
- iii. We don't swoop in and save them from experiencing anything hard or painful.
- iv. Prosperity Gospel

(2) In so doing, we teach them the Christian response to pain.

2. Pain Is Redeemable

Rom. 8:28

(1) That you're pain, if you let it, may serve to deepen your experience of God's favor, not mitigate it. It may be evidence of God's grace, not His wrath.

- i. Friend in Colorado wife's died at a young age after a diagnosis with a debilitating disease.

(2) How do you respond:

- i. Suffering in your home?
- ii. People who cause you pain?
- iii. To God when you're in pain? (Tyler - Allen vs. Shannon response)

II. Leave Them Deep Convictions, Not Populism

1. Conviction Requires Resolve

Rom. 8:24-25

(1) patience - steadfastness (nautical)

1 Cor. 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be **steadfast**, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

- i. when they see you interacting with others, is there a tendency to capitulate or remain convicted?
- ii. authority figures? Resolve and respect are not mutually exclusive.
- iii. We all want our people we love to be liked, especially our children. But the truth is, you can't be popular and convicted at the same time...not for very long.

(2) Unstable (nautical)

Jam. 1:6b-8 - "...for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, **unstable** in all his ways."



- i. conviction are determined by others, by what is popular. Problem is, different cultures and subcultures put value in different things, at different times, to different degrees.
- ii. This teaches them to split their persona, depending on who they're interacting with.
- iii. The result is never, ever feeling profound approval that satisfies and holds the potential for destructive behavior: addiction, promiscuity, depression

2. Conviction Requires Jesus

Rom. 8:31, 38-39

- (1) God approves of them on the basis of Jesus' good work, not their own
- (2) They do not have to put on a persona with God, but rather lay down all personas.
- (3) How do you react when:
 - (1) People don't agree with you
 - (2) When people don't acknowledge you

III. Leave Them A Model Of Dependence, Not Autonomy

1. Dependence on community

Rom. 8:29

- (1) No one is an island on to themselves.
 - i. My dad taught me help, is weakness.
- (2) If it's just you...then risk management is logical choice.

2. Dependence on the Lord

Rom. 8:26-27, 32

- (1) Nothing that is really valuable can be lost for those in Christ.
- (2) Everything is to be used, not owned.
 - (1) Florida crash...God has blessed me?
- (3) How do you react:
 - (1) When you lose a job?
 - (2) Stuff gets broken (you'll never risk for the Lord, if the objective overly concerned about the cost)?
 - i. Sometimes the risk is staying put or persevering longer.
 - (3) People are not dependable?
- (4) When your kids experience loss...don't replace what they loss...not immediately anyways... remind them that their is something they were never, ever loose.



#4 - CONCLUSION

I. Not short-cuts to joy

Heb. 12:2 - "...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

(1) *Because what I know, and what the Bible teaches, is that every meaningful, substantial, and durable joy-producing enterprise...is never obtained by taking short-cuts. Because when you short-cut your faith, you short-cut your joy. And joy requires pain, conviction, dependance...not just for you, but for them, as well.*

