



Snares

Part 2

June 18, 2023 – Father's Day Sunday

The Apostle Paul's 1st Letter to His Son in the Faith, Timothy:

1 Timothy 3:1-7, “The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent

convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.”

May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen!

Leadership. Leadership in the Church. Leadership in the Home. The Word of God defines the function and role of leadership in both arenas squarely upon the shoulders of God’s Men. That is not stated to disqualify women from acts and functions of ministry however, the burden of the Ministry of the Home is to be the burden of the Men of the House.

And as Men of this House, I want to admonish all of you to embrace our opening passage of Text and by such, strive in the leading of the Spirit of the Lord to live by these holy statutes and by them, we shall all be found as good stewards of what Christ has assigned unto us.

But with that said, snares exist and it is by these snares that we are hindered, controlled and even thrown off course in turn thwarting the Holy Calling unto which we have been called. Thus, with that said, Point #1...

1. The Snare of Disengagement

- a. 2 Samuel 11:1-5, “In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ²It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” ⁴So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.””
- b. The Key to seeing the failure of David with Bathsheba was not birthed on the balcony but on the battlefield. Simply put, because David was not where he needed to be doing what he was supposed to be doing, he found himself where he did not need to be doing what he was not supposed to be doing.

- c. Note the first verse of this passage of text, “In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.”
- d. Men, when we forfeit the Battle that the Lord has called us to, we will find ourselves fighting a losing battle... And it was the Snare of Disengagement; the snare of autopilot that crashed the plane. He got too comfortable and disengaged but then found himself engaged in a fight he was not supposed to ever fight.
- e. The Snare of Disengagement will demand you forfeit your future for temporal comfort because it will always be your greatest weakness will stop your greatest desire.
- f. For example, David’s greatest desire was to build the Temple of the Lord but due to David’s lustful desire of Bathsheba, he had Uriah the Hittite killed and thus lost his opportunity to build the Temple because he now had innocent blood on his hands...
- g. David’s desire for Bathsheba stopped him from building the house of the Lord. His greatest weakness stopped his greatest desire. Thus Solomon (his son) built it but it was also sexual perversion and idolatry that lead to the fall of the empire.
- h. Remember, the Snare of Disengagement will pay in the short term but cost you in the long term; Do Not Disengage! Point #2...

2. The Snare of Dishonor

a. Galatians 5:7-15, “You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?⁸ This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹ But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ¹² I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves! ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.”

b. Church, the instruction of Christ to us, as His followers, to love our neighbors as ourselves has a two part component; love and honor. Simply put, you can't honor what or whom you do not love and you cannot love what or whom you do not honor. When we love others as we love ourselves, we hold them as equally valuable to ourselves thus enabling us to love ourselves and others equally and passionately.

- c. You give yourself grace when you fail so you in turn are able to do so for others who fail you. You give yourself forgiveness when you simply did not make the best decision and in turn are able to do so for others who need your forgiveness.
- d. But when Dishonor becomes a cultural norm or perhaps a perpetuating personal practice, it drives us to disunion, disconnect, disrespect and dishonor those whom we at one time loved and cherished.
- e. Friends, the Snare of Dishonor drives us to consume those that Christ commanded us to love; which includes but is not limited to loving ourselves and loving others the same.
- f. Romans 1:18-27, ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, ²¹in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal

God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.”

g. Note that when their love for God, themselves and others weaned, dishonor became the fruit of their misdeeds where as they did not just dishonor God, they dishonored themselves amongst themselves! And their dishonor of God and themselves lead to a debasement of their very creation. Dishonor lead to perversion and perversion lead to destruction.

h. And the same can be said of us if we do not guard our lives and relationships in light of our text, “¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.”

- i. Remember, the Snare of Dishonor always leads to destruction thus choose to walk in Honor! And lastly, Point #3...

3. The Snare of Discontentment

- a. Galatians 3:1-6, “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—⁶ just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?”
- b. Church, the snare is not found in beginning well but rather on the path leading to finishing well. As Paul stated, having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Having begun well, are we now off course and unlikely to finish well?
- c. Having stood strong at one point in time, has discontentment become your lot and has the fire diminished?

- d. Men, discontentment creates competitions, quarrels, and frustrations which far too often stems back to the lust of the flesh, of the eyes or it is birthed in pride. May we today, as the men of this house, collectively choose to embrace contentment, walk in honor of others and refuse to be disengaged in this present hour! Gentlemen, I am assured that if we do these things, we will do well and the Master will be pleased!
- e. In closing my prayer for us, as men, is that we can fully embrace the following words, that of the Apostle James as he admonished his hearers; and especially the men. His Brothers...
- f. The Book of James 1:2-4, **“²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”**
- g. May we count it all joy, remain steadfast, and lack in nothing!