



Route 66 Faithful Wounds

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Proverbs 27:6

“Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”

Praising God is something you do.

Trusting God is a position in God you take. I trust you. (Not trying to trust, rather deciding to trust).

Proverbs 27:6

“Wounds from a friend can be trusted”

God I trust you, even if it hurts to go through this.

God loves us enough to confront us.

Lust betrays. Lust is emotional, driving, thoughtless, careless, and very dangerous.

Lust doesn't care about the truth.

Lust lies.

Lust makes you feel safe when you're not.

It's temporary.

Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

Relationship - is the thing by which we relate. Family, friendship, work, neighbors.

How are we related matters.

Try-angling is when two people relate to each other with a common cause - love, hobby, pain, or hate. But once the cause isn't there there's no relationship. The cause brought them together.

First command was to be fruitful and multiply. (Relationship)

John 15:1-9

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."

John 15:1

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener."

That means I was planted intentionally by God.

At a specific time and place.

God planted you with a specific purpose. You are on purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

The vine had actually become the symbol of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. *"The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel" (Isaiah 5:1-7).*

"Yet I planted you a choice vine" is God's message to Israel through Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 2:21**).

Ezekiel 15 likens Israel to the vine

Ezekiel 19:10

"Israel is a luxuriant vine,"

Hosea 10:1

"Thou didst bring a vine out of Egypt,"

Thinking of God's deliverance of his people from bondage – Psalms 80:8

The vine was the emblem on the coins of the Maccabees.

John 15:2-3

“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”

There was an expectation to produce fruit.

Every relationship has expectations. If you have a pet - dogs needs to be feed, walked, played with. A child needs your undivided attention.

John 15:4-5

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

A branch can't grow without the vine. A branch can't grow by itself. "Apart from me you can do nothing"

So STAY CONNECTED!

Everything you need or ever will need is in Him.

If you separate from Him you will die.

Satan lied to Eve and separated her from the truth.

In the day you eat it you will die. Adam and eve lived...but everything was changed. The death process has begun. You can cut off a finger or hand and it looks alive for a while, but the death process has begun.

The objective is to stay connected.

The enemy wants your present circumstance to separate you.

God said let there be _____ and there was _____.

Life in the air... Birds can't live out of the place they were created to thrive.

Life in the seas... Fish. Dolphins and Whales (mammals)

Life on the ground... grass

God said, let Us make man in our own image. But apart from him we can do nothing.

Relationship with the Father matters.

John 15:2

“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

Where is your fruit? God didn't create you to produce leaves.

He prunes what you have produced. Be careful to not resist pruning. Or worse make up for the loss on your own.

The fruit was His. To do with whatever He wants.

Be careful to not take too much pride in your fruit. Because if you think it's your fruit, or you somehow caused it to happen, you will become bitter when He prunes you. It's never about you. Ever. We must live to point to Christ.

Trust in Him and leave the results to Him.

He works ALL THINGS for His glory.

Pruning brings about more growth. To be exalted humble yourself. Trust the gardener.

A good gardener will be able to look at a plant and know exactly where to cut. No question. No hesitation.

God loves you. The Lord disciplines though he loves.

The wounds of a friend can be trusted.

Too often we separate when it gets tuff.

Many DISCONNECT when it gets ruff or it isn't looking the way you think it should.

So if you trust God for a while then don't you start over.

In recovery you get a chip for the first year of sobriety. Some have received that Chip several times.

In our relationship with Christ some have a lot of first year chips. 2 years, 5 years, 10 years.

Maybe you've know the truth for many years but you haven't made it past 1 year without separation. Maybe 2 years, 5 years.

After a while - the joys and sorrows the blessings and wounds add up to a strong relationship. Every day is work. Every day you decide to stay connected.

But after some time you don't believe the lies of lust and addiction - satan - and you STAY! You don't quit.

STAY CONNECTED.

John 15:3

"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

God has given us his word.

To make us stable. Strong. Faithful. Ready.

He said He would sanctify us and make us holy.

He will sanctify. Set apart.

He will make holy.

Let him work. Trust the process.

A believer trusts -

You may not know where you are or where you're going but it's ok if God is there. Trust Him. Let Him have control. And don't be a back seat driver.

He's our protector, our provider, our company, our friend.

Pruning is painful, but not unto death.

John 15:4-5

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

And I in you... sin separates us from God. Saved but separated.

John 15:6-7

"If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, (in planted, took root) ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

James 1:22

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

John 15:8-9

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

People don’t like hearing the truth. They gather for themselves teachers that tickle their ears. That comfort them and not challenge them.

Jesus said, if you want to follow me pick up your cross and follow. That will involve - suffering, challenge and difficulty.

Consider it all joy...

Jesus said, If they persecute you they persecuted me first.

Jesus said, I’m sending you out as sheep among wolves.

Jesus let us know that we would have rain and sunshine, pleasure and pain, good times and bad times.

He knew they would stay when it was good. But He knew it would not always be good.

It isn’t about how you make it, it’s that you make it. Some people only want to make it if it’s easy, comfortable, predictable. And it’s not any of those things all the time.

DO YOU TRUST HIM.

James 4:6-8

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”

Remain –

God doesn’t bless sin. He forgives it.

If you SEPARATE- you’re not connected. The flow of God can’t flow through a branch that is separated. No one may notice at first but without remaining (forgiveness) everything will begin to change.

It’s not how much of the Bible you read, it’s how much you retain.

It's not how many follow Jesus, it's how many stay.

It's not how many know about your Restaurant, it's how many come in.
It's not how many people get married, it's how many people stay married.

YOU CAN'T BE FAITHFUL AND LEAVE.

Hear the Word and retain it.

James 1:21, NIV

"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."

James 1:21, NLT

"So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls."

James 1:21, KJV

"Therefore lay apart all filthiness and the superfluity of wickedness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls."

James 1:21, MSG

"Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life."

You can't use verses you can't remember. It must be the word - engrafted in, planted in - your life.

The Word that sticks is the Word that saves.

How do you retain it?

Scripture is an umbrella that allows us to stand up under the rain.

God is a God of Principles -

Cain - if you do right

Talents -

Moses - go to the pharaoh stretch out your Rod, step, (do what you can)

Thy word gave I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.

If you love me you will keep my commandments.

It all starts with humbling

Little investment- little return

Don't expect to excel in areas where you are poorly invested.

In order to be at your best you must learn to say no.

You can't be at your best if you're bankrupt. Empty.

Even gas trucks - need gas.

Q. What are you willing to be faithful to

Q. What are you willing to invest in

Q. Are you over invested

Pruning

Q. What are you faithful to that isn't working. (It's a branch with no fruit)