

Talking & Walking - Barriers

Series on Prayer & Holiness

- not a formula or how to get what you want
- communication with God, responding
- looked at how Jesus prayed
- develop relationship that brings heart change

Today – barriers to living out that heart desire

- barrier – in the way, preventing forward progress
- preventing us from living out the hearts desire for God

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Scripture Passage – Luke 22:47-53

“While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

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Three Snapshots

1. Wounded By the Well Intentioned

- ever feel like you're a failure?
 - * foot washing in upper room
 - * prediction of betrayal and abandonment
 - * told would deny Christ 3 times
 - * falls asleep in the garden – lets friend down
- now full of zeal, well intentioned, ready to show Jesus

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- frustration with Judas for the betrayal of Jesus
- attacks unarmed servant of High Priest
- makes contact – cuts off ear
- blood is flowing, tempers flaring, situation critical

Earns a rebuke from Jesus – put that away, no more!

Before we get too critical of Peter:

- exactly how we respond to failure – I will show you
- determined to make it right – not fail again

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2. Broken & Bleeding

- imagine with me if the servant had run for cover:
 - a) not life threatening
 - stop blood, get help, would recover
 - b) disfiguring and visible
 - comb hair, grandkids on lap, looks in street
 - c) scars and stories
 - recount the actions of Jesus followers and the result in your life

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* This happens today:

- Christ followers full of zeal swing the sword
- many of you bear the scars – wear the evidence

* attacked for your choices or actions without understanding

* told your being punished for something, your faith isn't what it should be or you would be healed

* cutting comments, actions, rejection, condemnation apart from love or relationship

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- * become the walking wounded – scars to show for involvement with other Christians!
- * recount the stories of offence and failure by others, show our wounds, tell our war stories
- * even wear our scars as badges – look what I endured at the hand of supposed Jesus followers
- * adjust our involvement, actions so that we cannot be cut again – simply self preservation
- * adopt a critical attitude towards other followers of Jesus, We want relationship with God – just not his followers!

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3. Healed and Whole

- Look at what does happen:

- a) Allows Jesus to touch him!

- does not run, allows Jesus to reach out and restore

- took incredible courage – allow the touch

- b) Experiences Healing!

- ear is restored – bleeding stopped

- the one they have come to arrest grants healing

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Interesting Things to Note:

- a) no reaction from the authorities to the miracle
 - proceed on the mission of arrest and crucifixion
- b) wonder what he said at home
 - explain the blood on tunic, tell what happened
- c) wonder if he went to the cross, finished his day?
 - could you have continued on?
- d) the story now not about the wounding but the healing!

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So What

1. Sword Swingers Exist

- we have all in well intentioned zeal left wounds on others
- must be willing to repent – put down sword
- many of you have been wounded:
 - cutting words, harsh criticism, stinging rebuke
 - blindsided by others – genuine pain and hurt
 - friendly fire happens – many have been victims

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2. Broken & Bleeding

- two responses to wounds – run for cover or run to Jesus

- * Many with Scars.....

- have withdrawn from relationships in family of God

- tell their stories laced with unforgiveness, bitterness

- adjust their actions and participation to protect themselves, not follow fully God's word & example

- scars remind them of the offense – not the healing hand of God

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Something to think about:

- * losing more in church to friendly fire than to enemy*
- * models of self church, non participation in body life *
- * adopt belief that I can have relationship with God, without relationship in the body
- * Jesus condemned religious leaders of the day, yet participated fully in worship, prayer, temple life
- * Jesus anger evidence in temple – fathers house a house of prayer – did not walk away

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3. Healed and Whole

- touch of Jesus changed everything
- story about God's healing and wholeness – not wounding
- midst of struggle, garden moments, Jesus stops to heal
- last miracle for one of his enemies – touched by God

•Barrier to Living Out Relationship – wounds, scars, withdrawal from God's design for his followers

- will you allow the touch of God to change your story from the wounds from others to the touch from God?

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Question:

- Will you allow God to bring Healing and Wholeness?
- Will you determine to engage in God's mission His way?
- Are you willing to gain wholeness – live differently?
 - * many used to our scars & stories, justify our actions, our non participation, our anger, our bitterness
 - * healing and wholeness will bring life change, response to God's people and plan
- All you need to do is come to God, allow that healing touch – determine to remove this barrier to being like Jesus!