

Talking & Walking - Barriers

Series on Communication with God & Life Practice

- how Jesus Prayed
- what Jesus said about prayer
- our practice of communication with God
- change the heart – change the actions

Barriers:

- Scars and holding offences against others
- Allowing the healing hand of God

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Today – unpopular, counter cultural, truth

- live in a rights dominated society
- default setting – what do I get from this. Sell it to me!
- see life as mine to live, mine to invest:
 - my time to do with as I please
 - my money to spend as I see fit
 - I need a holiday, treat, break, etc
- Biblical Truth – surrender, submission, laying down life, taking up cross, following, bondservant, slaves to

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1. Adopting the Posture

- dog whisperer – deciding who is boss
- world says – grab, defend, look out for number one
- * Jesus modeled and taught a posture of submission *
- Matthew 5 – beatitudes
- Luke 9 – greatest is the least, cost of following
- John 20 – garden prayer

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“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death -even death on a cross!” Phil. 2:3-8

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a) Look at What Drives Us

- selfish ambition, vain conceit, my interests
- decisions really made by hearts posture
- what I believe to be true governs my actions
 - winter tires on the van
 - winterizing the recreational vehicle
- what I am convinced of I act upon --- even when I am wrong or misled
- start with my hearts posture towards this truth

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b) Choose Your Posture Carefully

- AW Tozer “there can be no savior without Lord”
 - How are we doing with the Lordship of Jesus in Us?
 - bondservants, slaves to righteousness, taking up cross, dying to self, sanctified, called, humble
 - Jesus though being part of the trinity – humbled himself
 - Left heaven, limited himself to human form, took abuse from those around him, obedient to death on cross
- * Decision was made 1st, then followed through*

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2. Daily Decision Making

- ever wonder what someone was thinking when.....
 - easy to make a choice – difficult to follow it through!
 - * choice to be married – good or bad marriage depends
 - * choice about our health – exercise and diet hard
- a) Follow through takes several things
- knowing the importance of the issue
 - keeping your original choice in focus

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b) Jesus in the Garden – Mark 14:32-41

“They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

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- Jesus already had the right posture
- Jesus felt the weight of the decision
- Jesus withdrew to prayer – took others to support
- Jesus recounted the truth:
 - everything is possible for you, take this cup from me
- Jesus stated his position – not my will – yours
- Jesus persisted until resolute in stance – 3 times
- * Jesus surrendered to the will of the father – victory*

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3. Dangerous Consequences

- conversation with my kids – driving towards danger, yell!
- is my surrender to God's truth, way, will that critical?
- can't I have enough of God for salvation, yet still run my own show?

a) Heart Position Revealed and Judged

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" Matt.7:21-23

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- "For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live" Romans 8:13

- "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15-16

- "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." Gal. 5

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- Romans 13:1-7 says:

- 1 Peter 2:13-17 says:

b) Your Relationships With Others Reflects – James 4

- fights and quarrels come from **OUR** desires

- picture of dysfunction

- living for selves brings chaos and disaster

- submission, humility, resisting evil - blessing

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c) Your Model is Being Seen and Copied

- less mature in Christ will model your choices
- children see your legacy – examples
- world – those neighbors, work associates, friends – all observe your choices and decisions
- are you known for the surrender of self, importance of the other person, unity and harmony in body, defense of the truth gently, humility, obedience to truth?

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So What

1. You Begin By Deciding On Your Posture!

- gift of salvation requires my response
- slave to righteousness, belong to God, surrendered
- need to stay in the truth, align myself with it, determine to ingrain the posture of Jesus, reflect it!

2. Daily Practice God's Way First

- follow through takes intentional daily struggle
- keep the stakes in mind, checks and balances

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3. Remember What's at Stake

- reveals what I am convinced of
- models for all who see me what I live for
- legacy for those whose lives I can influence