

Series : A Faith that works when Life doesn't Part 15

A faith that doesn't hold onto hurts

Jesus is the Lord of glory misunderstood by his family, betrayed, denied and abandoned.

Gethsemane, prayed sweating drops of blood from his brow. At the Cross Jesus said , ` father forgive them'. Come and take the sting out of the hurt. Jesus as the last Adam had learn to live by faith in his Father at all times and under all circumstances. He didn't need saving faith – for he had no sins, but he did need to live by faith. We on the other hand need saving faith and a lively living faith. Adam and Eve – whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

“As you have received Christ Jesus so live in him.”

James 5 Suffering? Pray. Vexed, troubled afflicted. Go to your Heavenly Father. Matt 6.53, 54 could have called 12 legions of angels to his aid. An Almighty display of power could have given instant closure to his suffering and hurt but thwarted the plan and purposes of God. Heb 12.2

Jesus learnt obedience through the things that he suffered.

Now God is in the strong faith growing business. If you come to Christ your troubles and hurts are only just commencing. But we must learn not to allow these hurts to paralyse us and we must be careful that we do not cause hurt to others. Let the truth do its work.

A Faith that doesn't hold onto hurts that come through the Tongue

James – tongue mentioned 5 times – 1.26, 3.5ff

Proverbs 10.20,21 “The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the mind of the wicked is of little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.”

12.18 “There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

18.21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”

Singing praises one moment and slandering someone the next. What a strange lot we are.

We can get caught up in gossip and lies if we are not careful. Never think you for one moment you have mastered your tongue.

Marriage and family. These are the most intimate relationships we have. Why is it that those we love the most we hurt the most? The tongue.

Marriage is the union of two good forgivers. Illustration

A time to keep silence and a time to speak. Ecc 3.7b

Never give someone the silent treatment. Past hurts are often dragged into present relationships.

Need to discover and practice healthy ways of relating where there is no fighting, fleeing or freezing. Never let bitter jealousy and selfish ambition simmer in your heart.

“We were made for peace and joy in our relationships, both with God and with each other. We were not made to carry indefinitely unresolved conflict and hurt.” Charles Ringma

We must be careful not to intrude on our adult children’s lives. Prince Philip attitude. Learn to become friends with our children as we move out of the parent child relationship to adult – adult relationships.

Fellow Members to Members

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt...” Col 4.6

Ministry amongst the Church children, YP, Y Adults, seniors not size but the sort of ministry that the Lord looks at.

“Sometimes biting your tongue, keeping back sharp or hurtful words, produces the most remarkable sweetness.” Stephanie Dowrick

If you suffer humiliation at the hands of unkind people, get your eyes off of self. “We would mind humiliation less if we were humbler.”

“Your grandmother was right. If you don’t have something kind to say, say nothing at all. If envy, bitterness, self-pity or anger get in your way, deal with them. Limit the problems you create for other people.” Stephanie Dowrick

Pastor and People

Man that loves you the most is the man that tells you the most truth about yourself.

Yet the pastor is to “speak the truth in love”. Two way street. From the pulpit and in one on one.

But if someone in the pastoral team speaks rudely to you? Take it for granted that their rudeness has *nothing to do with you*. Assume it reflects their bad day. Respond courteously. Love covers a multitude of sins. BUT if someone is *routinely* rude. Then speak up. Let them know that you are uncomfortable. Ask *them* to suggest a workable solution.

Our Lord Jesus had a righteous anger and called out the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees. We also can be angry but sin not. Let not the sun go down on your anger.

Bullies in the workplace. Bad mouthing you, undermining you. Speak up and if need be take someone with you. Yes there is a time to speak and a time to be silent, but this doesn't turn you into a church mouse. You can with integrity and honour confront it. Vengeance is mine I will repay says the Lord. Matt 15.18,19 and the Cross, Col 3. 8 to 10, and 1 John 1.9

A Faith that doesn't hold onto hurts that come through Trials

Prayer of surrender. Elizabeth Elliot's

“Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, All my own desires and hopes, And accept thy will for my life. I give myself, my life my all, Utterly to Thee, to be Thine forever! Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit. Use me as Thou will, And work out Thy whole will in my life, At any cost. Now and forever.”

These people learnt how to rejoice under trial and not hold onto their hurts but allow all to deepen their trust in God. Turn the hurts into prayers of surrender.

What about you and me. Our trials and sufferings are nothing like these. Or are they?

Passed over for a job or promotion because of your Christian faith and stance?
Mocked or scoffed at for being a Christian at school or before your family?

Forgive and lock ourselves up to God and believe that God is continuing his sovereign work of making us image bearers just like His Son.

Hurts nursed and cradled gives birth to bitterness and resentments which leads us away from our active faith and reliance upon God.

“I know nothing that can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of grief and sorrow; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead.” C H Spurgeon

A Faith that doesn't hold onto hurts that arise from unfulfilled expectations concerning healing.

James 5 sick let him call the Elders.

C S Lewis and his wife Joy Davidman. Tripped on telephone cord. Fell and broke fema. Dr examined and bones riddled with cancer. Condition very low only days or two weeks max to live. Called Rev Peter Bide, came and prayed and laid hands on her. She went home and went from strength to strength. Walking up hills etc. 3 good years were given to them in their happy marriage.

But what about when godly people seek their elders to come and pray and they are not healed. Perhaps they die. Paul asked 3 times that the thorn in his flesh be removed. My grace is sufficient for you – this was the reply.

G H Morling prayer for his daughter dying of cancer. The prayer meeting going on and then the prayer that gave freedom. “Lord if you have a higher plan for her than what we are praying for then we willingly embrace that for your glory.”

Samuel Rutherford “When I am in the cellar of affliction I look for the Lord's choicest wines”.

Questions.

- 1) Have I said something to another that I need to get right with them?
When will I make the first move towards forgiveness, reconciliation and a deepening true faith in God?
- 2) Are any trials and temptations that I'm facing now blocking my ongoing life of faith?
- 3) I've asked the Lord for healing and intervention but nothing seems to have changed. Share your heartache with someone you trust.