

Project 78

Part 4

Last Few Weeks:

- *Power and Wonder (vs. 4)*
- *Truth and Love (Ephraim vs. 9)*
- *Rock and Redeemer (vs. 34-35, below)*

When God Got Israel's Attention:

³⁴ *Whenever God slew them, they would seek him; they eagerly turned to him again. ³⁵ They remembered that God was their **Rock**, that God Most High was their **Redeemer**.*

Psalms 78:34-35

In our last message we finished on this passage. We learned that in the midst of the storm, God is our **Rock**, unchangeable, unshakable, unmovable, and our **Redeemer**. He is the one who rescues us, who delivers and guides us from the slavery of this world and leads us on a journey that brings us to a promise land.

A Time of Reflection

This past week we just experienced a time of fasting and praying, seeking the face of God. Some of us may have received some incredible insight, others some supernatural strength, others may have been given the ability to overcome some controlling things in their lives. Others may have recognized some out of control habits our flesh has learned to depend on. (Sugar, TV, Caffeine, News, Weather Chanel, etc.)

Applying God's Principals Effectively: “Working on it” verses “Working in it”

- **You cannot expect what you don't inspect- Tommy Barnett**
- The process of evaluation is one of the most important things that we can do in our lives. This time of fasting in our church was also for a time of reflecting. Some thoughts gathered from the book “E-myth” which challenges the reader to not only “**work in it**”, talking about the system, and in our case working in our lives but also to “**work on it**” which is to take a time of reflection to see where your life is going.
- **An illustration from the book is that of a bakery owner who worked and worked many hours in the job, *working in it*, in the mass demands of the system and never took time to *work on it*. And therefore two things occurred:**
 1. **He assumed the process would develop the progress.** In other words, his objective was to work, and the rest would somehow magically take care of itself. If you work 70 hours a week and are not seeing daylight, your family is falling apart and you have no money, you might need to take a trip to the mountains to have a very serious reflection time. But many people wait too late, they think the process, “working in it” will somehow vicariously “work on it” and take care of business..
 2. **He never changed the process that could change the progress.** The process has to change if progress is going to happen.
 - Finding time to reflect and review the treasures of our heart is first finding

out what is important to you and secondly, knowing what needs to get done to do the “important”.

- Somewhere you have to find a place to step back and look at your family, your life and **“work on it”**, and not just **“work in it”**. Sometimes you have to receive the call to step back and sharpen the sword and work on it and disengage being in it.
- Consequently it is easy to ignore this step and get caught up in the process and demands of life and miss the great opportunities to improve your family and life. **Challenging Fact: Sometimes you can get so occupied in life that you ignore the most important things of life because a crisis takes your life.**
 - **III. A painter was painter the rooms of the church.** Two guys came to him and asked, “Do you smell the paint?” He painted all the time but when he was asked if he smelled it, his response was, “Smell what?”
- Many things are trying to tell us that the **“Process”** is not making **“Progress”**, our wives, our children, our bosses, our checking account and even the Holy Spirit is gently speaking into our heart and saying, this is not the road. Pull away, reflect, know what is important, learn a new process. And we brush off all the comments and impressions because we are so involved **“working in it”** that we don't make time to **“work on it.”**
- If you don't plan time to **reflect** on the **process** you will just stay **“working in it”**. It is most important to plan time for reflection.

“Be still and know that I am God”
Psalms 46:10

Three Important Factors In Reflection:

1. **You cannot know God unless you get still**
 - **The word “still” is an action word!**
 2. **You can waste your “still” on knowing everything but God.** The goal of getting still is not for rest, relaxation and reflection, even though you need all of these things. But the ultimate ability to rest, relax and reflect is based upon you knowing God.
 - What does he know? Everything
 - What does He think? How does God view my life in what He knows?
 - What does God want? This is where He takes what He knows and applies what He thinks about me.
 3. **Until you know God you will never enjoy being still**
 - Quiet time is a time of being still
 - Going to church is a time of being still
 - Fasting is a time of being still
 - Retreats are times of being still and reflecting
- One signal to find out if you are **“working in it”** more than **“working on it”** is that your life

is lived more in crisis mode rather than according to your core values and God's principles.

Who's In Charge?

- **First Big Question: "What is *important to you*?" What are you passionate about? (Core Values)**
- **Second Big Question: "What *principles* governs you to accomplish what is important to you? (To accomplish your core values)**
 - **In other words, "What laws or principals do you abide by, or submit to that you respect and follow that you believe will bring you a full life?" Here's a few:**
 - '70"s', It's your thing, do what you want to do..."
 - Follow your heart.
 - You can do anything you set your heart on
 - **Body as an example:**
 - We always have it with us.
 - We can see the effects upon it by the way we live our lives.
 - The bottom line: **We can control our body and we can control our actions, but we cannot control the consequences of those actions.**
 - There are principles or laws that govern our bodies.
 - If we don't exercise and/or eat right but take pleasure in all the things our eyes can see but desire a great body and healthy life, the *consequences* will always over rule our desired outcome, *what is important to us*.
 - If we violate our body by devouring junk food over and over again we are left with the consequences.

Principles or Law

- **It is not our value system or what is important to us that controls the consequences in our lives at all, it is the natural laws and Biblical principles.**

**"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33**
- Here is a huge revelation, **"We are not in control!"** Principles and laws are in control and guide life.
- **What have you learned in all the overwhelming situations in your life? I'm not in charge. The greatest testimony you could have is, "I had no way of making it through this, but God brought me through."**
- **The natural laws will always exceed all your wishes and dreams.**
- **We have to learn how to apply God's principals with the vision, talents and giftings He has given us.**
 - **It's possible you are doing exactly what God wants to do with your life but for some reason you are miserable because you are ruling with your**

talents and giftedness and God is not being honored. You are honoring God with your talents and giftings, but you are violating principles that truly honor God.

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams.

I Samuel 15:22

- **The Consequences of my life are not governed by my value system, but by the natural principles that God has established here on this earth.**
- **If my core values are in relationship with God's principles, then the consequences of my life will reflect His power, peace and prosperity.**

Many times I have had young **people in my office** and I have talked to them about which **field they are sowing** in and what kind of harvest could they expect. For instance, if every day was like two days ago, what would the outlook of your life be? If you keep sowing a day like you did two days ago you can expect one of two things, either good harvest or bad!

Three Important Truths Concerning Priorities, Principals & Consequences

1. **All priorities demonstrate our core values system and all core values are always passed on to the next generation.**
 1. **We are all products of what our parents valued**

Illustration- Young Man:

 - **What our parents prioritized, they valued.**
 2. **We are all living as a result to what we prioritize.**
 - **Our priorities are our values.**
2. **Biblical core values must connect with Biblical principals/laws to promote health and growth in the most important things in our life. Wrong core values and principals promote growth in the fields that we don't want things to grow.**

*"For where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also."*

Matthew 6:21

A treasure can represent anything, it can be **materialistic**, it can be another **person**, **spiritual** or it could be an **idealistic thought** in your mind like:

- "I would like to eat better to lose some weight."
- "I'd like to lose twenty pounds."
- "I'd like to look better."
- "I want to start working out."
- "I want to be healthy."
- Here is all of these idealistic statements in one: "I want to eat better and work out so I can lose twenty pounds, look better and feel more healthy."

Your heart host whatever it is your treasure. Where is your core values? Right inside you. It's what drives you to do what you are doing.

You cannot separate what you **treasure** and what you are **passionate** about in your heart. The problem is that there are so many things that we can treasure that our heart is jumping all around.

- **If you have certain treasures in your heart, there is no more room for anything else, and because of that you lose what you would animately state what your core values are.**

The God Factor:

God's Word says this, "You can't do life without me!" To some, this is the principle of their life, to others, it's a law that burdens them and can't stand to hear.

- Question: How many have ever crammed for a test at school?
- Question: How many got good at cramming for a test in school?
- Question: How many of you work on a farm or have worked on a farm?
- Question: How many of you farmers crammed the month before harvest to plant your seed and water it so you could catch up with the season?
- Why? Because there are **natural laws, principles** that you have to respect, submit to and abide by or you will not have a harvest.
- There are things in our lives that you can get by on and still get the reward, but **the things that really matter the most, our family, our relationships, our careers, our personal and spiritual lives work on principles that do not change.**
- **You may have core values for a great harvest in your life but if you continue to violate the natural and Biblical principals you cannot have the harvest you desire in your life.**
- **Big Question? What is more important, core values or Biblical principles?**
- **Who is more successful, the person who has certain core values but violates Biblical principals or a person who honors, submits and bows down to Biblical principals but has not clearly defined their core values?**
 - **The Two Biblical Principals That Are Violated The Most In America are the principals concerning Relationships and Money!**
 - **When you violate certain principles you will fail and will fall short somewhere else in your life.**
 - **Negative Side:** You continue work but nothing seems to accumulate other than bills and problems.

"You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

Haggai 1:6

- **Positive Side:** You may get the big bucks, you may land the certain job, you may get the house you dreamed of, you might get the recognition that you have always wanted, you may save the whole world, but at what cost?

"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Matthew 16:26

Pay The Price To Respect God's Principals

- **If you don't pay the price initially, you will pay the price eventually.**
- Why is this true? **Natural laws and Biblical principles really govern, not our core values or personal desires.**
- Why is this so difficult? Because most of us, including myself, has been trying to build our lives around our core values. The idea is, "If I get the right core values, I get life right." Though it's true, if you have the wrong core values you will eventually destroy your life and dreams. But if you have a family, a marriage, children right now I could ask you: "How many of you would say that each one of those are very dear to you and they are the most valuable thing in your life outside of God." Most would raise their hands. But it is not what we value that makes the difference in our homes and our lives, it's the principals that we submit to that makes these core values of our lives worth reaching for and holding on to.
- **Biblical core values must connect with Biblical principals/laws to promote health and growth in the most important things in our life. Wrong core values and principals promote growth in the fields that we don't want things to grow. (Consequences)**

Three features are activated in us at all times: (Two always get in the way)

● **Pride, Humility, Humiliation**

- **Pride says:** "I can do it on my own. I don't need anyone's help." "I can violate the principals of God, of the nature of my kids, family, finances and I can get there eventually on my own."
- **Pride says that the journey I am on is worth it and the pleasures I am experiencing at the moment will outweigh the consequences in the end.**
- **Humility says:** "I know I could do my own thing, but I submit, I will bend and I will humble myself to the principles of Your Word so the consequences of my actions will bless You and give You honor and the generations of my family will be blessed."
- **Humiliation: II Samuel 10**
 - The King of the Ammonites died, his son Hanun was placed in his role and King David sent a delegation to show his sympathy. The Ammonites represent inside forces, close relationships
 - Someone believed that they were spies and cut half their beards off and cut holes in their robes around their buttocks. The world carries three different shames:
 - Asian Shame- Honor
 - Western Shame- Intelligence
 - Eastern Shame- Respect

- When Hanun realized what he had done he hired 20,000 Syrian/Armenian soldiers to help fight David
- Joab took one army to fight the Syrians/Armenians, represents the outside forces, mercenary army and Abishai
- Both the Ammonites and the Syrians fled but later regrouped and again was soundly defeated with Syria losing 40,700 soldiers and the Ammonites being enslaved to Israel.
- The importance of the story- many people live in humiliation and our well intentions, core values get misunderstood, mistaken or are attacked. We have more ability and opportunity to accomplish things but can be intimidated and quit because we feel stupid, worthless and weak.

Moses Instructs The Parents About Biblical Priorities and Principals

“Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country...”

Deuteronomy 11:2-4

● ***It Wasn't the Children Who Saw:***

- What God did to the Egyptian army, horses and chariots (vs. 4)
- What God did to Dathan and Abiram when the earth opened up and swallowed them and everyone in their families, their tents and every living thing that belong to them. (vs. 5-6)

● ***It Was the Parents Who Saw:***

“But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done.”

Deuteronomy 11:7

1. **The Commands (vs. 8a,22) Enforce the principals!**

“Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today...”

Deuteronomy 11:8a

“If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow...”

Deuteronomy 11:22

2. **The Complements (vs. 8b,9,21)**

- So that you may **have the strength to go in and take over the promise land. (vs. 8b) When opportunities come you will be ready to go!**
- So that you may have a long life in the area the LORD God has promised you. **(vs. 9& 21) You can enjoy the opportunities for a long time**

3. **The Check: (vs. 10-12)**

- The land you are taking over is not like where you have been...Egypt. (vs.

10) You planted and had to bring water to irrigate it.

- The land you are going to is a land of mountains and valleys where God's water falls from heaven.

"It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end."

Deuteronomy 11:12

4. **The Catch: (vs. 13,22b) Commit To His Principals!**

- Faithfully obey the commands that Moses gave.
 - To **love** the LORD your God
 - To **serve** him with all your heart and with all your soul

"...to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him..."

Deuteronomy 11:22b

5. **The Cut: (vs. 14-15)**

- I will send rain in both seasons, autumn and spring for new wine and oil
- I will provide grass for your cattle who will eat and be satisfied

6. **The Caution: (vs. 16-17)**

- You will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods
- Then the Lords anger will burn against you
 - He will shut the heavens so it will not rain or yield fruit
 - You will parish from the "good" land

7. **The Custom: (vs. 18-20)**

- **Memorize these words in your mind and heart**
- **Tie them as symbols on your hands and foreheads**
- **Teach them to your children: (vs. 19)**

A sign of a loving family is that the parents will be actively involved in giving guidance to their children. In the ancient Greek world, two words described the function of parents: **teaching and training**.

- The Greek word for **teaching** is *nouthesia*, which means literally **"a putting into the mind."** In the Greek way of thinking, this was done by verbal admonition; thus, teaching by words.
- The word for **training** is *paideia*. It is sometimes translated **"nurture,"** at other times **"chastening."**
 - To the Greeks, training always involved action. It had both a positive and negative aspect. The **nurturing aspect** may have involved hugging and kissing a child, whereas the

chastening aspect may have involved physically restraining him from danger, but the emphasis in both was upon taking action.

- To the Greeks, teaching and training were the two wheels upon which the chariot of child rearing was to roll. (*Five Signs Of A Loving Family*, Gary Chapman, Northfield Publishing, Chicago, 1997, pp.85-87)
 - **Four Positions of training: (Deuteronomy 11:19)**
 1. **When you sit at home**
 2. **When you walk along the road**
 3. **When you lie down**
 4. **When you get up**
 - **Write them on the on the door frames of your houses and your gates. (vs. 20)**
8. **The Champion: (vs. 23-25)** So that the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and stronger than you. **You get the benefits of not having the pesky irritants and do greater things than you are capable of.**
- Drive out people greater than you (vs. 23)
 - Where you place your feet will be yours (vs. 24)
 - No man will be able to stand up against you (vs. 25)
 - People will have a fear or reverent respect of you (vs. 25)
9. **The Challenge: (vs. 26-28)**
- God sets before us a blessing and a curse
 - The **blessings hinge on our obedience** of the commands of the Lord
 - The **curses hinge on our disobedience**
10. **The Charge: (vs. 29-32)**
- **Proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings**
 - **Proclaim on Mount Ebal the curses**

Because I made a decision of my will to change where I am prioritizing the treasures of my life, my time, talents and wealth- which is contrary to my emotions- my emotions will followed my actions. Regardless of what your emotions are telling you today, honestly examine where you are giving your best and where you should be giving your best. If it is not with God and your family, you are making a mistake, you are sowing in the wrong field.

Three Important Truths Concerning Priorities

1. All priorities demonstrate our core values all core values are always passed on to the next generation.
2. Biblical core values must connect with Biblical principals/laws to promote health and growth in the most important things in our life. Wrong core values and principals promote growth in the fields that we don't want things to grow.
3. The three essential priorities are God, family, and church.
 - If God and family are your highest two priorities, than church will be third. You need all the support of Godly influence that you can possibly get and you don't need to assist in distractions.
 - Our devotion to God is a personal issue. It has to do with our personal devotion to Him. Things such as prayer, the study of His Word and commitment to a devoted life to worship and serve Him is our first priority.
 - We need to be careful that we don't confuse God and Church. Giving God priority means that we seek and serve Him on a personal level moment by moment. It means that He goes where we go and that he is invited as Lord into our relationships, financial decisions, traumas, successes, conversations, and thought life.

"Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits."

1 Corinthians 15:33

All Concessions or Compromises That You Make In Your Life Takes Place When You Are Taking Actions That Do Not Agree With Your Core Values and ignore God's Principals

- No one is angry with a baby because it messes it's diaper. But the last time I messed Carol got real mad at me. I'm happy to tell you the truth that Carol has never been unhappy with me for that reason.
- There are people who never come to God's preferred position with Him because they never establish standards that support what they would call their "core values"
- There are people who were at one time powerful in the Lord, but because they have rationalized with things that were not written in the Bible as sin. But the issue was not "sin" or if you were going to hell or not, but the issue was, are you going to be in the position where the flow of heaven can flow through you because of your obedience to God.
- The Call of God on my life has been a call to lay down things that were not necessarily sinful, but were distractions to the priorities God had called me to.

God Is Merciful: Breaking The Cycle

³⁸ Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath. ³⁹ He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return."

Psalm 78:38-39