

FIGHTING FOR YOUR FAMILY PT. 2

PULLING DOWN FAMILY STRONGHOLDS

7/3/16

Luke 15:11-32

I. Introduction:

- A. God wants us to have blessed families. Blessed families are not only worth fighting for but they only happen _____ we are willing to fight for them.
- B. Today we want to see how the blessings of God come as the _____ in families are broken.

The grace and blessings of God come to our families as we are willing to identify and confront the grace inhibitors. Freedom doesn't just come from self-improvement but from sin _____.

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world. ON the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

- C. Throughout history where there have been legendary families, there has always been those who were willing to take a stand to tear down strongholds.
1. A stronghold is a sin, an unresolved hurt, false beliefs, or habits that _____ that blessing and grace of God from flowing in the family.
 2. God's plan is not just to diffuse problems and conflicts but to remove _____ of bondage that let healing grace pour in. *"And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire." (Luke 3:9)*
 3. Healthy families don't just fight because of strongholds, they fight _____ to remove strongholds.

II. We want to observe in the story of the prodigal son the answer to three questions.

- What causes strongholds/dysfunctions in families?
 - What does it take to break those strongholds?
 - How what Christ has done makes it possible to heal and free us from any stronghold.
- A. Strongholds come into our families through sin, shame, and _____. It isn't the fact that we sin that causes strongholds but the wrong choices we make in dealing with sin.
1. Since the garden, families have tended to deal with sin by hiding and _____.
 - *"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves to together and made themselves coverings." (Gen. 3:7)*
 - *"Then the man said, "The woman you gave to be with m, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." (3:12)*
 2. To blame and deny is to give up power and control to the _____ to rob, steal, and destroy.

"Blame is simply giving away the power to direct and change my life to someone or something else. When I blame someone, I have said, "I cannot change unless you change. I cannot forgive unless you change. I cannot be free unless you let me out of prison." Believing those lies make us powerless." –Danny Silk

- B. Strongholds begin to break when someone owns the need and the power for God to receive forgiveness, healing and change for _____.

Strongholds aren't broken when we're waiting for God to change others, but when we're eagerly seeking God to change us. Repentance opens the floodgates of God's grace and love to heal, revive, and restore our families.

7 Steps of Real Repentance:

1. Remorse, *"he began to be in want."*
2. _____, *"how many of my father's servants have more than enough to eat, while I perish."*
3. Acknowledgment, *"I will go and say that I have sinned."* (vs. 18)
4. _____ and godly sorrow, *"I am no longer worthy to be called your son."*
We can only be free not only to be sorry for sin but to hate sin, when we see that sin doesn't break our Father's rules but it breaks His heart.
5. A willingness to do whatever it takes to make _____.
6. Discovery of Father's grace
7. The _____ of identity, dignity, and authority. A totally changed heart.

- C. What the Father did to restore the family to wholeness

1. He never gave up _____.
2. He stood for _____ but walked in unconditional love.
He refused to be a victim of his son or a judge and chose instead to become an _____.
3. He claimed the power He had to love and walk in faith _____ of his son's deeds.
"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Cor. 13:4-8 NIV)
4. He gave forgiveness and grace was not based on what His son did but on what He Himself had _____.

Questions for consideration and prayer:

1. What are family strongholds that God wants you to trust Him to help you break?
2. What are you willing to allow God to change in you so that He can bring a change through you to the destiny of your family?
3. Where is God calling you to choose a path of complete repentance?

(Answers: I. when, strongholds, removal, block, roots, together II. blame, hurling, enemy, themselves, Revelation, ownership, amends, reclaiming, hope, truth, intercessor, in spite, done)