

Relationships- Family #11

AT Snacks-- January 19, 2025

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Monday:

We are starting a teaching for what I call the “Young Lions,” starting January 26th at 6pm. This class will be geared for the 20 to 40 year old’s, but if you have a heart like Joshua and Caleb, whether younger or older than that and you want to come, please do.

We have had this dream that the next generation, and the generation after that, are going to come along and do what we do, only do it a whole lot better than we’ve done it.

I want to give you a little spiritual to-do list that you can do. Something’s going on in the world, something really spiritual and profound and important, which feels different than it’s ever felt before.

Look at your situation right now- the problems, the ups and downs, the mountains, the valleys. We all have challenges. Start asking the Father what you’re supposed to learn in your circumstances. James 1:2-5 starts out, *“Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work...”*

If you lack wisdom, ask why you are going through this. *“What am I supposed to learn here?”* If you’ll do that, and ask Him for wisdom, He gives to all, the Bible says, liberally and without reproach. Assess your situation with the help of the Holy Spirit.

These challenges that we go through in life cause us to be engaged in the maturing process. He’s seasoning you, because God needs you. He needs to deploy you out there in the world as kingdom people, like, right now. The clock is ticking. The kingdom is coming, with you or without you, and you have to decide.

You have been prepared for this season like nobody else. We’ve been talking about it for 35 years, but more intensively for the last five or six years. So, nobody ought to be in better shape than you. Is it okay for me to expect some spiritual maturity out of you? To operate, to think, and to act with spiritual maturity as real, grown up kingdom people?

Tuesday:

If you’ll agree in your heart and in your mind that the hard things that you’re going through... this is important. If you agree and get in your mind that this is a good thing that you’re going through in the long run, it will be an extreme boost to your spiritual, emotional, relational, and even your physical health.

If you can decide that this hard thing that you’re going through is good for you, science says that it causes you to do better, to think better, to think well, and to be at peace in yourself.

If you submit to this process, He's going to tamper with every single thing in your whole makeup that's not like Jesus.

A church that's built on relationships gets a lot of relationship tests. It only makes sense that God wants to test those relationships, but it also makes sense that the enemy wants to mess with those relationships, to get you crossways with someone.

Please read Mark 12: 29-31. In this scripture, the Scribes knew that a Messiah was coming, but this illegitimate son of a carpenter couldn't be Him. Be careful, because that very thing is happening in our generation right now.

God is willing to use anybody, no matter what venue, wherever they are. If leaders in the body of Christ will not pay attention to what God's saying and doing, He'll go outside the body of Christ and use people who are willing to do that.

Leaders who are still playing the religious game, still going through the religious motions, still trying to hold up their traditions, but they're not paying attention to what God is saying and doing, they could miss that God is doing something different in this time. Please pray for spiritual leaders all over to wake up.

Wednesday:

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord is God. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. The second commandment is like that. Love your neighbor as yourself".
This is the short version.

Who actually is my neighbor? Your neighbor is not limited to those close to you or similar to you, but includes anyone in need, regardless of background, ethnicity, black, white, yellow, brown, or whatever their status.

It's about showing love and kindness to anyone God places in your path, even if they're strangers or enemies. Because the Word says to love your enemies. That's the most flesh slaying verse in the whole Bible. Read about the good Samaritan in Luke 10: 19-37. **True neighborly love reflects God's heart and His grace.**

Being a neighbor means demonstrating love through tangible actions, meeting needs, and showing mercy. Seeing others as your neighbor challenges you to live out kingdom values of grace, mercy and love. It's for everybody, and it's transformational.

There's a transformation that happens to people in the Kingdom of God. Like the caterpillar changing into a butterfly, old things have passed away. You're a new creation.

Treat everyone and anyone the way you'd like to be treated yourself. Relationships make us better. They are good for us. We learn from them. We learn about other people and we learn a lot about ourselves in those relationships. We learn a lot about the Lord.

Relationships are very challenging. In relationships, you get hurt, you get offended, you get betrayed, you get humiliated, you get made fun of, you get lied to, you get lied about and you get belittled. We all have those things, so join the club.

Thursday:

For one day, just set your heart and say, *“I’m going to do everything God wants me to do today”*, and you’re going to be really, really tested in that. The challenge is not allowing your heart to get contaminated.

When those things happen to you, what are you going to do about that? You really have to depend on the Spirit of God not to allow your heart to get tainted, or contaminated.

What are you going to do about it? Are you going to retaliate, cry, or whine about it? Are you going to talk badly about them or try to sway your friends to turn on them too? Are you going to withdraw, dig a hole and stay in it, isolate yourself, or get overcome by anxiety, discouragement or depression?

Are you going to develop a dislike for all people, turn to drinking or go the drug route? **QUIT?** What are you going to do? That’s the question.

If you give into these things, it opens the door for demonic activity. When you do these things, you open the door for the enemy. It’s not if the enemy comes, it’s when he comes, and it’s not going to take long when he finds you bitter and angry at someone.

You’re going to have opportunity to do all those things we just talked about—for those of you who are pursuing the Kingdom of God, actually doing this, doing the work here and learning to listen to the Father and walk with Him. This is where the enemy focuses his main attack. You are a target.

The ones who are valuing to walk that out as best you can are the ones who attract the sharpest, craftiest, most strategic, most vicious, most hate-filled demons there are in the whole demonic host. So, *“Resist the devil, and he’ll flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you”*.

Friday:

God is right there with you where you are, and He’s with you right there in the middle of every single thing that you’re going through in your life right now.

This week God started showing me about people who have dementia and Alzheimer’s, and for those who are in that condition. He said, *“I’m with them every second of every day, and there are going to be some flat-out unbelievable testimonies from those people, but you’re not going to get to hear them till you get there.”*

The enemy hates what you and the church are becoming, because the church is rising up in little places like this, and other places. Elijah prayed and thought he was the only one, and then the Lord said to him, *“Oh, I have 7000 more like you out there.”*

God wants to go after the heart, and the enemy wants to go after the heart also. He wants to pervert it any way he can, for us to be jaded. The enemy hates relational harmony and relational unity. His methods are division, strife, sowing discord, and all things that weaken relationships and disrupt the power of agreement.

Do you know that there's more power when you pray? There's power as you communicate with God in your prayer time. If two of you agree, there's power in agreement. Ask your friend, *"Hey, I want you to agree with me on this"*. Matt 18:19 says, *"If two of you agree as touching anything and ask it in My name, I'll do it"*.

Imagine a group of people this size, who are operating in unity. That's where God commends His favor. Where brethren are dwelling together in unity.

John 10:10 says that the thief doesn't come except for these three things: to steal, kill and destroy.

Saturday:

ZOE is the highest form of life to be had. You can only have that kind of life if you embrace God in relationship.

What happens when you have aught against your brother? You take it to your brother, and that's the way it's to be worked out. Who is the kingdom person in the picture?

If you asked me, *"What should I do in this situation"*? I would ask you, *"why are you asking me?"* You would find out the information on what to do just like I would.

How do I need to handle this as a kingdom person? If you just play it safe all the time, if you don't ever try to work through these kind of things, nothing really productive ever happens. The stuff that we're talking about right here will make your life so much better.

The greatest joys in your life come through relationships. What's make my life so rich is the relationships that I've been in, as challenging as they might have been. It's life altering and life changing. You have people in your life right now to help perfect your love, so that your love is like the love of the Father.

Opportunities exist in every interaction that you have with everybody; a waitress, a fellow golfer, or just someone that you accidentally bump into.

Thank the Lord for the problem people in your life, because they are producing in you an opportunity to love like the Father loves.