

Relationships - Family #16

AT Snacks-- March 2, 2025

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Monday:

The most important thing I could say to you, I believe, is to learn to relate to God as Father. If you're not engaging relationally, interacting with the Father, talking, listening and those kinds of things, you are missing the point.

You're living in a time right now that you're going to see, you're going to see the greatest display of signs and wonders, and God-performed miracles through people like you, than any generation has ever seen before you.

We are a church that's built on relationships. That's what God had in mind at the very beginning. So, if you were the enemy, wouldn't you focus your attack on relationships? So heads up, that's what happened.

In the final analysis, it's the relationships that you encounter in life that make your life worthwhile and significant. After 16 weeks of teaching, are you finding yourself being better in all facets in your relationships?

Relationships are messy. That's where the greatest joys in life are to be found. But it's also where the greatest challenges, frustrations, heartbreak and betrayal happens. The greatest tests in life are with your relationships.

How many of you are really, really getting tested in your relationships? If that's not happening for you, I'm going to pray that you do get tested in them. I'm getting really, really tested to the core in my relationships. Anybody else?

The Father does not test us so He can find out where we are. He tests you so you can find out where you are, because He's conforming us into the image of Jesus.

Tuesday:

We are not just trying to have a little church service so everybody can feel good and leave and go home. We're trying to train people up so they can get in on the greatest move of God there's ever been. That's what we do here.

In any situation you're in, who is the kingdom person in the picture? If that's you, what do you do? You have to take that to the Lord. That's how the kingdom works. I'm personally finding Him to be in a real talkative mood.

NOBODY can fix you but Him. But He uses people in the process of that. So, would you agree we need to be fixed? So start pursuing God. What do I do in this situation? He'll show you, because a kingdom person should behave differently in those situations.

How are you going to handle your situation? What's the Lord saying to you about your situation? The book of James puts it like this, "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience*". It goes on to say, "*if you lack wisdom, ask of God, Who gives to all liberally and without reproach.*"

A lot of young guys use to come to me asking me what they should do. My response back to them was this, "*What's the Lord telling you to do*"? They thought I was passing the buck, but now it's the thing they love me for the most, because it caused them to go to the Father themselves. That's what I'm doing with you.

Just the fact that you're getting tested is proof that you're right in the center of God's plan. It's His immeasurable love that you're experiencing, and not punishment. The whole Bible Belt's mindset is this: if you're going through a hard time, God's punishing you. That's a stupid mindset. God's testing you, because He loves you so much.

Wednesday:

God is preparing you for an incredible destiny. You ought to say, “*Well, thank you, Lord*”. There’s something about gratitude that just changes things. When you get grateful and vocalize your gratefulness, something changes in you. If I wasn’t getting tested, I’d be worried. So, if you are getting tested, congratulations.

The most change that happens in us happens in little, tiny increments at a time. Sometimes you’ll see some kind of a big, miraculous, overnight sensation thing, but not often. God does that on purpose.

I would say that the bulk of the people in this room are growing more than you realize you are, and you’re in a better place spiritually than you understand you are.

He’s testing you in the little things to see if He can trust you with the big things. He’s testing you in the natural to see if He can trust you with the supernatural.

Are you thinking differently? Are you behaving differently? How are you doing in those really tense situations? Have you noticed that you got a little bit of understanding that, “*I can’t handle it like I used to handle it*”.

If you’re thinking differently and you’re getting better, even if it’s just in tiny increments, you’re becoming not just a hearer of the word, but a doer. It’s the doers who change the world.

Please read Matthew 22:37-39. It’s all about interacting with the Creator of the universe, Who wants to have you to talk to, bless and reveal stuff to. He wants to be your Father, not just some god who is out to get you.

Thursday:

God took a rib from Adam, which made him incomplete, and fashioned Eve. Then He presented Eve back to Adam and the two became one flesh.

We’re encouraged to love like Jesus did. A lot of people don’t think that’s doable. But if the Bible encourages you to do anything, it’s doable for you most of the time. But you’re going to need the help of the Holy Spirit, and He’s always there. It’s in our relationships that we have the awesome opportunity to learn to love like Jesus did.

That’s what we call being conformed into the image of Jesus. Those little incremental changes that we’re talking about when we start handling our relationships from a spiritual standpoint, instead of a worldly, secular mindset. When we start to do that, we begin to grow up. We start to mature.

To see the kingdom manifested in your situation, you have to be looking and paying attention. It’s the tiny, consistent, little changes that come over time. You may not feel like you’re growing now, but if you stay consistent, faithful, obedient, cooperative and relational with Him, you’re growing by leaps and bounds, whether you can see it or not.

God is sovereign in relationships. There was nothing less than the chain of miracles in everybody’s life to get them to this place spiritually, and maybe in this family. God has worked really hard to get us together, if you can acknowledge that. That’s why we need to put the value on our relationships that God has.

Anytime you make any problem more important than the relationship, which people do all the time, the relationship is in trouble.

Friday:

We owe it to ourselves to put the value on relationships and if I or you say something that hurts anyone, we should come to the table, sit down and work it out, even if you need a mediator. It our responsibility to do that.

It's just been embarrassing how much of a lack of that has happened, even in our own household. People get their feelings hurt and they leave. COME ON! Why don't you try it, because it works every time.

God likes reconciliation. He likes making things right. That's why you invite the Holy Spirit to help you make the relationship more important than the problem. God not only restores the relationship, but makes it stronger and better than it was before the problem. I call that the relational reset.

For those of you unmarried, does the Father have the perfect person for you? Just knowing the Father like I do, I would say, "YES".

Please read 1 Corinthians 7:8-9. He's talking about sexual immorality. *"But if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry"*.

For unmarried women, He is your companion, until the right one comes along. Let the Lord be your companion. Be patient. I've see people jump the gun a few times. Don't get in too big of a hurry. Girls, don't get saddled up with a user. They're out there.

For the unmarried man, this is spiritual. To hunt polar bears, you set up camp, and they find you. So, guys, work on yourself. Be a kingdom man. Do the right thing. Get your focus on Him and do the stuff we're talking about here. She will find you. That's a guarantee!

Saturday:

Work on it with you first, then when you see other people with a relationship problem, you're someone who can help rescue them. It's you connecting with Him and being able to pour out what you've learned. You can't fix or rescue anybody, but He can.

What you need to do is love them, and if you can get them to embrace that relationship with Him, 95% of the problem is on its way to being fixed right there.

At some point, everybody gets hurt, betrayed, or gets "done wrong". The question is, what are you going to do with it? Are you going to fight about it, talk badly about someone, be at odds with someone, execute vengeance or try to get them back?

If you're going to have the measure of contentment in life, you're going to have to experience, to endure, to wrestle with, and be confronted with all the challenges that genuine relationships provide.

We must understand how much blessing there is in our relationships, how hard relationships actually are, and how much character, patience and obedience that you display in the process of having your relationships restored.

Heads up! Relationships are the greatest tests in life. If you don't lay your heart out there on the line, you're not going to get the best out of your relationships.

So what are you going to do if you get hurt? Are you going to stop trusting anybody, shrink back and be bitter the rest of your life? Or are you going to go and do some business with the Father?