

Stay Out Of Bondage...Ask These Three Questions

"The Time Is Now" Series- Part 04

Share/Connect time: *If you have siblings, where are you in birth order? If it was possible, which sibling would you trade birth order with? Why or why not would you trade?*

A wise plan...when it comes together: In a recent message, Pastor Brandon gave a clear warning: *"When you break free from any kind of bondage, Satan stands ready to drag you back in!"*

During the lesson, Pastor B gave us a 3-point plan to stay out of bondage. Let's briefly review them:

1. *Declare that you are dead to sin.* How do you personally do this in your life?
2. *Offer yourself entirely to God.* Can you identify a recent occurrence where you said "No" to self and "Yes" to God's will or purpose?
3. *Walk by the Spirit.* How do you know that you are in tune with and following the Spirit?

Recently I heard a podcast in which a man described a horrible time in the life of his family where his mother and father were fighting during the holiday season. This volatile time presented itself in such a fierce way, that it was prime to put his whole family in spiritual and emotional bondage for years to come. The speaker (although he was an 11 year old boy) was the only one who escaped from bondage and instead, excelled in freedom. As he reflected back on that day, he realized that he did three things that evolved into three important questions he would ask over and over again into his adulthood.

If you remember the old television show, *The A Team*, one of the often repeated lines was, "I love it when a plan comes together". In addition to the wisdom our pastor shared with us, I believe those three questions presented by the podcast speaker can be an additional tool help us walk in spiritual freedom:

In any given situation (good or bad) ask these three questions:

1. **What will you "focus" on?** For instance: The good, the bad, or the ugly? Focus on what is truth or what is a lie? Will you focus on what you do understand or will you be consumed with what is unknowable?
2. **What "meaning" will you ascribe to what you choose to focus upon?** For a moment, allow the meaning to be developed and defined by the 3-point plan listed above.
3. **What will you do about it?** What will your next step be that will help you to stay free and allow you to fulfill God's purpose for your life?

Let's get into the Word:

In the remainder of our study, let's look at an example of a man under intense pressure, who was provided an opportunity to make some harsh and wrongful decisions. It is the story of King David when his son Absalom rebelled and took the kingdom from him. David, his family, and a number of soldiers are escaping the capitol city of Jerusalem in fear of being destroyed by his own son. I told you...intense pressure. Let's read how David responded to even more hurt and insults:

Book: 2 Samuel 16:5-14

2Sa 16:5 As King David came to Bahurim, a man came out of the village cursing them. It was Shimei son of Gera, from the same clan as Saul's family.

2Sa 16:6 He threw stones at the king and the king's officers and all the mighty warriors who surrounded him.

2Sa 16:7 "Get out of here, you murderer, you scoundrel!" he shouted at David.

2Sa 16:8 "The LORD is paying you back for all the bloodshed in Saul's clan. You stole his throne, and now the LORD has given it to your son Absalom. At last you will taste some of your own medicine, for you are a murderer!"

2Sa 16:9 "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?" Abishai son of Zeruiah demanded. "Let me go over and cut off his head!"

2Sa 16:10 "No!" the king said. "Who asked your opinion, you sons of Zeruiah! If the LORD has told him to curse me, who are you to stop him?"

2Sa 16:11 Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "My own son is trying to kill me. Doesn't this relative of Saul have even more reason to do so? Leave him alone and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to do it.

2Sa 16:12 And perhaps the LORD will see that I am being wronged and will bless me because of these curses today."

2Sa 16:13 So David and his men continued down the road, and Shimei kept pace with them on a nearby hillside, cursing as he went and throwing stones at David and tossing dust into the air.

2Sa 16:14 The king and all who were with him grew weary along the way, so they rested when they reached the Jordan River.

Someone volunteer to paraphrase the story (tell the story again in your own words).

In this situation, what are the possibilities that king David could have "focused" on? What do you think he chose to focus on?

What meaning did David apply to the slander and accusations that were presented (thrown-in-his-face?) to him?

Based on what David chose to focus on and the meaning he ascribed to the situation, what did he choose to do? What actions did he take?

Where do you see the possibility of spiritual bondage lurking in this story? Where is spiritual freedom demonstrated?

How can I apply this lesson to my life:

Think about a recent "intense, unpleasant, and unfair" situation that you were involved in and you were not pleased with the outcome. Reflect upon that scene again, and ask how it might have gone or felt differently if you had applied the 3-Point Plan and the 3 questions mentioned in our study today.