

# freedom of forgiveness

## Lesson Three

### Not Worthy but Trustworthy

We have a mindset that places the disciples and other spiritual leaders on a pedestal. We have this opinion that they are or were perfect or somehow we seem to almost deify them.

The reality is that they are not different from us. They had many of the same issues we have today. They were far from perfect.

### **Messy Spirituality:**

Noah had enough faith to build an ark, taking 100+ years of his life doing so. To many, he looked insane. After surviving months in the ark, when he left the ark he planted a vineyard, made wine, got drunk and naked.

David; look at his moments of greatness, defeated Goliath, had great military victories, etc...

Then look at his failures! He was human. It's important to note that after David's failure, David regains his composure and continues to be Israel's king. He, later in life, has the temple designed and gathers all the materials that would be needed to construct it.

### **All Biblical characters had a mix of strengths and weaknesses.**

David, Abraham, Lot, Saul, Solomon, Rahab and Sarah! They were God-loving, courageous, brilliant, fearless, loyal and passionate. They were committed holy men and women of God who were also murderers, adulterers, and manic depressives.

They could defend the faith one moment and run for their lives the next.

They had faith one moment and doubt the next.

Two of the disciples got so mad one day that they asked Jesus if they should call fire down from heaven and burn the city down. Peter denied Jesus three times after swearing that he would never fail Him.

Some of the New Testament characters we read about were prostitutes, tax collectors, etc. (God knows they can't be saved, ha, ha, ha). They were sometimes penniless riff raffs, and losers of all kinds.

The disciples were known for infighting, jockeying for position, being suspicious of each other, impulsive, selfish, lazy and disloyal.

So, if Peter can be saved, I guess I can be also...

We lift up Biblical characters as being super human and they were just like us!

Even though we in most cases are not worthy, He believes we are trustworthy. So, He has us in the church, born for this hour, to accomplish His will.

Super spirituality is a myth. This does not excuse spiritual laziness. But we need to embrace the reality that people, you and I, are flawed. We have moments of greatness intertwined with moments of humanity.

Christians are not supermen and superwomen. We stumble, we fail. But we also succeed and have great triumphs.

Get Up!

If you are suffering of guilt from past failures, stop it, get up!

Stop looking for sympathy, stop looking for excuses, stop looking for someone to “cheer you up”. Get up and do something for God.

God’s desire it to bring complete and inner healing into your life. You cannot be as effective as you want to be until you release past hurts, failures, shame, bitterness, and resentment from your heart.

By His stripes we “were” healed.

**1 Peter 2:24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye **were** healed.

It’s already done. It’s not, “You will be healed”. It reads, “You ‘were’ healed”.

### **The Honor Principle:**

**Mark 6:1-6** <sup>1</sup> And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. <sup>2</sup> And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing *him* were astonished, saying, From whence hath this *man* these things? and what wisdom *is* this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. <sup>4</sup> But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. <sup>5</sup> And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*. <sup>6</sup> And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

We can only allow God to have full and complete liberty in our lives if we honor Him.

Look at all the miracles Jesus did. Yet, when He “came to His own country” he was hindered from doing what He was capable of doing.

Why?

---

---

Look at Verse 5, what does it say?

Jesus considered their dishonor to be unbelief.

If we dishonor Him by feeling we are not worthy of honor, we tie His hands. He would work in us but He can't because we have limited Him.

Isn't that what the people did to Jesus as we read it in Mark chapter six?

When we don't forgive others or ourselves we limit what God can do for us. He is capable of doing more.

**1 Peter 4:16 (YLT)** and if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; and let him glorify God in this respect;

Think of your past for a moment. There are things you prefer people do not know:

- A divorce that took place although you did all you could to avoid it.
- An abuse you would rather forget.
- Failure/temptation you can't believe today that you succumbed too.

The list goes on...

**John 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**Psalms 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

You can be released from the chains, the lies that have you crippled by doubt, fear and shame.

You are loved simply because you are His child.

Only the blood of Jesus can wash away your sins.

**Hebrews 10:19** Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

**Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Undeserving? Yes! Unworthy? No! The blood of Jesus makes us worthy.

Look at the parable of the lost sheep, lost coin, and the lost son. (Luke 15)

The common denominator between the three versions of the story is that something was lost and the owner did everything in their power to find it. When they did find it, there was great rejoicing!

We were lost! Jesus searched for us until we were found. That is love!

**Ephesians 2:4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

I'm unworthy because my mom was an alcoholic, because my dad ran out on us, because I made a mistake when I was fifteen, because I used to use drugs, Blah, Blah, Blah...

**Did you repent? If so, where is the sin now?**

**1 Peter 2:9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Romans 8:35-39** <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Your past is just that, past!

However, the failures you have now overcome are now instruments of healing and testimony to others so you can help them overcome.

God's not looking for worthiness, He's looking for trustworthiness.

He's looking for someone that will keep trying, who will get up, who He can anoint, love, use, bless and empower.

**Philippians 3:13-14** <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I *do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>14</sup> I **press** toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

It's about relationship. When we seek His face, He can empower us to achieve what we cannot on our own.

We need to come to the house of God with a right attitude. We need to have an attitude of faith, and have expectancy that He will work on our behalf.

I believe you love me, I believe you want to show up in our service and fill someone with the Holy Ghost. I believe you want to use me in the gifts of the spirit. I believe!

Your source is always through the power of His Spirit. Stay humble before Him. God uses vessels like you and I to do great things for Him.

**Exodus 12:12-13** <sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. <sup>13</sup> And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.

How do we apply this principle today in the church?

---

---

We can walk in and with confidence know that "He which has begun a good work in me will complete it".

**Joel 2:25-28** <sup>25</sup> And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. <sup>26</sup> And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. <sup>27</sup> And ye shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and *that* I *am* the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed. <sup>28</sup> And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Joel talks about knowing that God is in the midst of Israel.

In spite of all our mistakes, all our messiness, we can be confident that God is at work and He will carry us through.

**Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

\*This lesson is compiled by Rev. Warren R. Tryon, Jr. based on the book *The Freedom of Forgiveness* written by John Arcovio