

freedom of forgiveness

Lesson Four

Innocence and Shame

Judges 6:1-6 ¹And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. ²And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: *and* because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which *are* in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds. ³And *so* it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; ⁴And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. ⁵For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; *for* both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it. ⁶And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

The Israelites were God's people.

Then why were they living in defeat?

Take a moment to notice the wording of verse two: "And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: ***and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which *are* in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.***"

Because of the Midianites they had to live in caves etc...

Israel's situation was caused by their apostasy (Idolatry) and their evil practices. Unfortunately this was not the first time they fell into sin.

Why do so many people live below their privilege?

God's people should be blessed! Right?

Why do so many settle for scraps when God would want us to sit at a banquet table?

People struggle with fear and intimidation, why?

Where's the faith?

The enemy wants you to believe that he has power and authority over you when in fact, the opposite is true.

Can you tell me if we, the church, were given power and what kind of power we were given?

Luke 10:18-20 ¹⁸And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Matthew 18:18-20 ¹⁸Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Romans 8:38-39 ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor 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.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord...

Malachi 4:3 And you shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

James 4:7...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 John 4:4 You... have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

As long as we are in Christ, the enemy cannot touch us unless it is for our molding.

Israel was defeated because they disobeyed God's Word.

1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

The devil cannot touch you if you are walking with God.

1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God **keepeth himself**, and **that wicked one toucheth him not**.

1 John 5:18 (NLT) We know that God's children do not **make a practice of sinning**, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.

The Amplified Bible says "deliberately knowingly, practice sinning".

So, this thought might really stir up some debate but it is the Word of God, is it not?

So the Word says, if you are walking with God, satan cannot touch you.

If you are suffering, where is it coming from?

So, if you are deliberately sinning and the Lord leaves you to reap what you sow, it's your own fault, don't get mad at God.

Look at David's prayer: "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me." **Psalms 119:133 (KJV)**

God wants to walk into the middle of your fear, bondage, and torment and reveal Himself as Jehovah Shalom, the God of Peace.

Fear and faith cannot mix. Satan knows that too. If he can terrorize you with fear, he can get you sidetracked.

Fear and intimidation are spirits.

The only way to counteract fear and intimidation is to walk daily in His Word and prayer.

Quote Scripture, stand on the Word.

Romans 8:1-4 ¹*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh,

and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Did you see that? You will be in perfect peace if your MIND is STAYED in Him!

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power (dynamis), and of love (agape), and of a sound (disciplined) mind.

So God has given you the power of his (agape) love and a disciplined mind.

We need to access our disciplined walk with God to overcome intimidation.

Can we go back to John 14:27 for a moment? What is the difference between the “peace” that the world gives and the peace God gives?

The peace God wants us to have is peace in the middle of the storm that says with confidence, everything will be ok. A stillness of heart and mind that says, “I’ll be alright, I will get through this; but while I’m here, what do you want to show me Lord?”

Peace!

We can walk in peace!

Too often we feel that we can earn it. If we pay the price and discipline our bodies with fasting and somewhat abuse our bodies in the process, somehow in my body, I’ll see God.

Look at the cultures where people feel if they re-enact the crucifixion by nailing themselves to a cross, allowing themselves to be beaten, somehow they will get closer to the Lord; Not So!

Romans 7:18-25 ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Innocent...

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

If you have repented, if you've been baptized in Jesus Name, in God's eyes you are now innocent.

If you still feel guilty, filthy and unworthy, either you don't understand what happened when you were forgiven or the devil is lying to you and you are accepting it as true.

Satan knows that if you feel dirty, you will not want to enter into the presence of God. Therefore, when he makes you feel this way, he robs you of intimacy with God. Your growth and usefulness to God will be hindered.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Bind that feeling or that voice and cast it out. Then release or lose the spirit of forgiveness, peace, joy, or whatever you need God to do for you.

Luke 1:74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Forgiveness:

Matthew 18:23-35 ²³Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came

and told unto their lord all that was done. ³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.

What do these verses tell you about forgiveness?

Joseph in the Old Testament named his first son, Manasseh = “to forget”. His second son was named Ephraim = “double blessing”.

When you choose you forget and release, then and only then will you be blessed.

Isaiah 61:1-3 ¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; ³ To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. ¹² Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. ¹³ And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

God’s love will embrace you as you learn to forgive yourself and others. You may think it’s not possible, but it is. Let it happen!

If we could somehow embrace God’s love, we might begin to understand how He cares for us.

He loves us while not condoning or winking at our sin. His love is balanced with goodness and judgment.

You see throughout the Bible where when God’s people fell into sin, He let them reap what they were planting. But whenever they sought to repair the breach, He was there to heal them.

May you truly know the freedom God has for you! In Jesus Name!

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