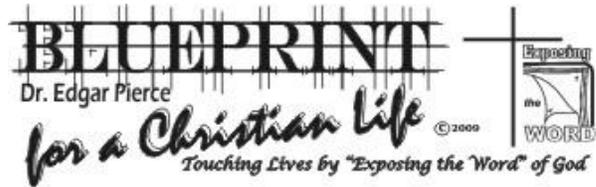


An "Exposing the Word" Sermon Series



8- When Change is Necessary, (React to Conviction) 2 Sam 12:1-10; Ps 51:1-4

In our analogy of building we have our discussed our plans, enlisted a builder, have consulted the architect, we have held the cost down by sticking with the plans. Then the unforeseen occurs. The contractor calls and says that the way that you wanted something has to be changed. He is insistent that it must be changed to stay on track of building.

In our spiritual life, both saved and unsaved, we have a parallel to this. It is called conviction. We often refer to it as the Holy Spirit dealing with us. Some may even think it is only their conscience speaking to them.

Years ago, I stood on a weeknight at a carport of a house with a friend of mine along with a grandmother and her grandson of about 8 or 9 years old. My friend talked with the grandmother about Christ and attempted to present the gospel to her. I will never forget what occurred next. The grandson looked at his grandmother and committed, "Why does your face look so funny grandma." The conviction of the Holy Spirit was so strong on her that her face had distorted causing the comment.

Conviction is something that we very seldom talk about from the pulpits in our time. We make the presupposition that everyone understands what is happening when conviction is present. But do we?

When our breath does not seem to be entering our lungs, our legs shake and our palms sweat from the feeling we have that we need to change something in our live, do we understand? How should we react to conviction?

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to convict men of their need of Christ for the forgiveness of their sin. Notice *The*

Message rendering of John 16:8-11
"When he comes, he'll expose the error of the godless world's view of sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 He'll show them that their refusal to believe in me is their basic sin; 10 that righteousness comes from above, where I am with the Father, out of their sight and control; 11 that judgment takes place as the ruler of this godless world is brought to trial and convicted.

Lets talk a bit about when change is necessary, reacting to conviction.

I- Face to Face with Others Sin:

Last time we saw that David was involved in what is commonly called a "moral failure" today. He committed adultery and then murder. We might change the names but it is still sin in the eyes of God.

We continue with the story of David after he had made the decision to not do the things that were best for him and not pleasing to God. We pick up the story after Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, has been killed in battle because David placed him at the front so he would be sacrificed.

God sends a message to David by a prophet named Nathan. Would he reject it or accept it? When he came face to face with his sin, would he make matters worse or admit his sin?

2 Samuel 12:1-4 *And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. 2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: 3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and*

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nourished up; and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. 4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

This story by Nathan the prophet was a simple illustration. Notice the reaction of David to the story. Might I suggest that we often get angry at others sin more than our own?

2 Samuel 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: 6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

Now David had the authority as king to pass this judgment and see that it was executed. He was angry at such a reprehensible sin.

Let us hear the words of Jesus again recorded in **Matthew 7:1-5 NASB "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye,**

and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Learn to see your own faults and flaws is the message here. In order to understand conviction perhaps we need to understand what sin is.

Anything that fails to conform to the law of God. Evil is a complex phenomenon in the Scriptures. The idea of sin is conveyed by a variety of expressions with meanings like missing the mark, rebelling, going astray, transgressing, stumbling, etc. Basically, 'sin is lawlessness' (1 John 3:4), referring to an inward attitude as well as to the breaking of written commandments. All people commit sin (1 Kings 8:56; Rom. 3:23). To deny that we have sinned is to make God a liar (1 John 1:10); all his dealings with humanity are on the basis that we are sinners. But the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin (1 John 1:7).

The Shaw Pocket Bible Handbook, Walter A. Elwell, Editor, (Harold Shaw Publ., Wheaton, IL; 1984), p. 359

II- Face to Face with Our Sin:

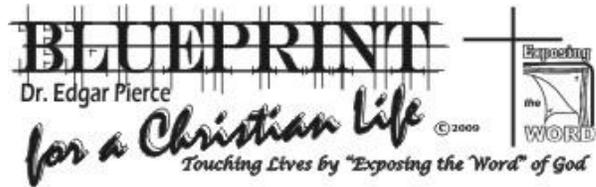
A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, 'Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?' There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. 'Sin,' he said.

Bits and Pieces, May, 1991

Inside the quote above is a verse that we need to hear. **1Jn 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.** So before we get to thinking we are above sin hear this well.

Not to David and Nathan. **2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man.... 9 Wherefore**

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hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

Have you ever come face to face with the sin in your life? My prayer is that today we all are coming face to face with it. Repentance is needed but before we can find a place of repentance I think the word of God would teach us that we have to come to a place of conviction. We need to realize that there is something wrong before we can fix it if you will. You ever notice when we have a cold or a small problem we act like we are dying but just as soon as we think it may be serious we act like nothing is wrong. Is it not the same way with sin and conviction?

How would David react? He had the power to have Nathan killed. You just did not talk to the king this way, unless, God sent you and you were willing to lose even your very life for the truth.

We are not left to wonder about David reaction. **2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD...**

Out of this experience, we have the great Psalm of repentance that David wrote in response to this time.

Psalms 51:1-4 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I

acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Beloved this is how we react to conviction. We ask for God's forgiveness. When things need changed we change them.

Notice a New Testament verse that applied as we bring our sins to God. **1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

III- Help! I Need Your Help!

Gal 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Let me close with a plea. We all need help in building our Christian lives. We need each other.

It was F. B. Meyer, I believe, who once said that when we see a brother or sister in sin, there are two things we do not know: First, we do not know how hard he or she tried not to sin. And second, we do not know the power of the forces that assailed him or her. We also do not know what we would have done in the same circumstances.

Stephen Brown, *Christianity Today*, April 5, 1993, p. 17