

October 24, 2010

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Monday

Luke 13:6-7 And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any...'Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?'"

It is important that you take responsibility for your Christian growth and maturity. If you are depending on (or worse, blaming) someone else for your development, you are indeed stagnate and in danger. God places others to help us, challenge us, and even facilitate our growth, but He never removes the responsibility for your growth and development from you. How's your prayer life? How are your relationships? How is your devotional life? Are you involved in missions? Are you encountering God in worship? Are you engaged in ministry? Take responsibility.

Tuesday

Matt. 5:23-24 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

God is obviously interested in the state of your relationship with others. Just as obviously, He is calling on you to do something about those relationships. Your worship and prayer are hindered by broken relationships and unrepentant attitudes. Note that the verse places the responsibility on the one who is mature enough to be seeking God in worship. Are you doing, have you done, all that God desires in healing broken relations? Have you forgiven? Are you praying for them? Will you reach out with the same grace with which God reaches to you?

Wednesday

Matt. 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Rom. 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Three separate reactions to conflict often arise, two of them unhealthy. Two of them are hindrances to prayer and Christian growth. The three are fight, flight, and reconciliation. Perhaps like so many, the two wrong ways were modeled for you and you are now modeling them to others. It is time to become healthy in your relationships. Reach out as God has reached out to you. Determine to be a peacemaker in your home, in your church, and in your community.

Thursday & Friday (Consider the 4 G's of Peacemaking)

Glorify God: Instead of focusing on our own desires or dwelling on what others may do, we will rejoice in the Lord and bring Him praise by depending on His forgiveness, wisdom, power, and love as we seek to faithfully obey His commands and maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude. (1 Cor. 10:31)

Get the Log Out of Your Eye: Instead of blaming others for a conflict or resisting correction, we will trust in God's mercy and take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts -- confessing our sins to those we have wronged, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we have caused. (Prov. 28:13)

Gently Restore: Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, we will overlook minor offenses or we will talk personally and graciously with those whose offenses seem too serious to overlook, seeking to restore them rather than condemn them. When a conflict with a Christian brother or sister cannot be resolved in private, we will ask others in the body of Christ to help us settle the matter in a biblical manner. (Gal. 6:1)

Go and Be Reconciled: Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation -- forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences. (Matt. 5:23-24)