

No Fear -- Part 3
The Relationships of Refuge
Psalm 46:1-2; Numbers 35:12, 24-25
Acts 2:42

Sunday - May 8, 2016
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Psalm 46:1-2
(NKJV)

- (1) God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
- (2) Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Wisdom Point: Any refuge that we have other than God becomes a prison. Any refuge other than God isn't an answer, it's a problem.

Matthew 22:37-40
(NKJV - emphasis added)

- (37) Jesus said to him, “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*”
- (38) This is the first and great commandment.
- (39) And the second is like it: *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*
- (40) On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Wisdom Point: The Bible is a book about relationships; relationship with God and relationship with people.

Wisdom Point: The way that God protects us is through relationships. *Remember that God implements refuge through His people.*

AMONG THE WRONG REPLACEMENTS FOR RELATIONSHIP ARE THESE:

I. Things

Wisdom Point: Things can never comfort or encourage you. Never love something that can't love you back.

II. Isolation

Wisdom Point: If Satan can get you to stop trusting people, he can get you to stop trusting God. Isolation is the worst friend that you can have when you're hurting.

Acts 2:42-43
(NKJV - clarity added)

- (42) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- (43) Then fear (*sense of awe*) came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs (*attesting miracles*) were done through the apostles.

Wisdom Point: Focusing on God's Word and prayer is how you develop your relationship with God. Focusing on breaking bread and fellowship is how you develop your relationship with God's people.

Wisdom Point: We will see the miraculous power that was manifest in the early church when we follow their pattern. Their pattern was to focus on their relationship with God and their relationship with each other.

III. Unrighteous Relationships

A. Relationships with believers who are sinning:

1 Corinthians 5:11 -- But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother (*any so-called Christian brother*), who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler (*slanderer, verbally abusive*), or a drunkard, or an extortioner—*not even to eat with such a person*. (NKJV - clarity and emphasis added)

Wisdom Point: We need to love each other enough that are willing to confront sin in their life. We should also desire to be loved enough that another brother or sister in Christ would be willing to confront sin in our own life.

Wisdom Point: No one is perfect, but everyone is pointed in a direction.

1. It will affect you.
2. He will interpret it as you condoning his sin.

B. Relationships with unbelievers:

2 Corinthians 6:14 -- Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (NKJV)

Wisdom Point: We don't need to develop close relationships with people who don't love God, don't want to know Him or walk with Him. What we need to do is to develop a close relationship with God and His people and be salt and light to them.

IV. Religion

Wisdom Point: Religion is a replacement for relationship. Religion is about fulfilling requirements so that you don't have to deal with your heart.

Matthew 23:25-28
(NKJV)

- (25) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.
- (26) Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.
- (27) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.
- (28) Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Wisdom Point: God does not have a problem dealing with sin. He has a problem dealing with people who won't be honest about dealing with sin.

V. Busyness