

Boundaries-Boundaries with Family and Friends-September 19 & 22, 2019

Scripture: Matthew 12.48-50

Genesis 2.23-24 (NIV)

²³ The man said,
“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Luke 9.59-60 (NIV)

⁵⁹ He said to another man, “Follow me.”

But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 12.48-50 (NIV)

⁴⁶ While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

⁴⁸ He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

John 13.21-27 (NIV)

“Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

²² His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. ²³ One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

²⁵ Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”

Boundaries-Boundaries with Family and Friends-September 19 & 22, 2019

Scripture: Matthew 12.48-50

Read and Discuss

Introduction

We wrapped up our series about Boundaries with a look at some of the unique dynamics of creating boundaries with family and friends. For most of us, it's easier to say "no" or set boundaries with someone you don't know well than it is to create boundaries with people you are closest to.

Engage the Scripture

- Read Genesis 2.23-24. This part of the story explains why there is a necessary change in relationship between parent and child once the child enters into marriage. Typically this change happens somewhat naturally. But there are cases when boundary lines are not redrawn and relationships become unhealthy. What are some possible pitfalls of not drawing boundary lines with family?
- The Hebrew word for "leave" is `azab. This word can also mean "to loosen" or "let loose". The example of an adult child's changing relationship with his or her parents, could involve a "loosening" of the relationship. Generally speaking, what are some relationships that might be helped by a loosening? What are some relationships that might require a "letting go" or ending?
- We are designed for changing relationships so that we can continue to embrace the new thing God is doing or calling us to. Often times that involves having space for new or evolving relationships with others. When have you had to alter the nature of one relationship with family or friend in order to have emotional or even physical space for someone else? Explain.
- Read Luke 9.59-60 and Matthew 12.48-50. In each instance, Jesus says something surprising about family. Why do you think his words sound so surprising to us in 21st century Western culture? What do our words reveal about how much we value the family? Are our collective actions consistent with our words?
- Read John 13.21-27. Jesus sat at a table with his friend Judas who had betrayed him. Instead of remaining in the painful situation, Jesus named the broken relationship and Judas left. Do you have a difficult time identifying the broken or hurting relationships in your life? What can you learn Jesus' example with Judas?
- Jesus demonstrated healthy boundaries. Pastor Mark said, "Jesus wasn't willing to risk the mission and so boundaries helped him stay focused." Have you ever put into words what God's mission for you is? Even if not, how can boundaries in even the closest relationships help you stay focused on what God is doing?

Boundaries-Boundaries with Family and Friends-September 19 & 22, 2019

Scripture: Matthew 12.48-50

Prayer

God, please continue to be my protection from toxic relationships. You want to set me free and free me for whole relationships that bring you honor and glory. Help me to see the hurt that I have caused to others and free me for life-giving connection with others. Thank you for loving me and calling me to love others. Amen