



Part 7: The Lowdown on Disappointment

May 6 & 7, 2017

Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

The Highs and Lows of Human Relationship

⁹ Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴ Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵ You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

¹⁶ At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted

me. May it not be held against them.

¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹ Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. ²¹ Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters.

²² The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all. – 2 Timothy 4:9-22

The Broken Relationship

...for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. (verse 10)

Who is your Demas? _____

God says... Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirits should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. – Galatians 6:1

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

– Romans 12:18

The Adversarial Relationship

Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. (verse 14)

Who is your Alexander? _____

God says... Do not repay evil for evil... Do not take revenge... "I will repay," says the Lord... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

– Romans 12:17-21

The Abandoned Relationship

At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. (verse 16)

Who has deserted you? _____

God says... "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."
- Deuteronomy 31:8

The Reconciled Relationship

Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. (verse 11b)

Who is your (John) Mark? _____

God says... "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."
- Matthew 18:15

The Faithful Human Relationship

Only Luke is with me. (verse 11a)

Who is your Luke? _____

Have you neglected the faithful while fixating on the enemies?

Who are your Crescens, Titus, Luke, Tychicus, Priscilla, Aquila, Onesiphorus, Erastus, Trophimus, Ebulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia?

The Faithful Divine Relationship

But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed. (verse 17)

Who stands with you and gives you spiritual strength? _____

Paul says... And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (verse 17-18)

God says... One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. - Proverbs 18:24

Small Group Questions

- 1) Have you ever been mistaken for someone famous? What happened?
- 2) Which of the relationships listed in the outline is the most painful for you to think about? Without gossiping, how are you handling that painful relationship?
- 3) Have you ever reconciled a broken relationship? Describe the joy of that reconciliation. What had to be laid down for that to occur? (Pride, the need to be right, preference, etc.)
- 4) It's easy to focus on the negative. Who are your faithful friends? Who stands with you? Thank God for them right now!
- 5) How has Jesus stood with you this week?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?