

## **“Necessary Traumas – Surrender”**

**Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 12:1-2**

January 21, 2024

- Sermon series recap
  - o There are two types of people in this world;
    - The listeners
      - Heed instructions
    - The take-actioners
      - Find out for themselves
  - o Most of us are the latter.
    - Which means that there will be these times in life, these “Necessary Traumas” that enable you to grow up, acquiring the necessary wisdom to live life as a Christian.
- We’ve all had similar experiences
  - o Last week, I told you about my Underoos experience.
    - The trauma of waking up to the fact that sin isn’t just other people’s problem, that’s it’s our own
    - We talked about how if we wanted to grow in this life and to see this church grow, we were going to have to take very seriously this proposition
      - That, at some level that we can correct with God the Father’s power both ourselves and this church through the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.
        - o We can grow individually and we will then grow congregationally.
- *Growing up in life is inevitable.*
  - o *Growing up in the FAITH is not guaranteed*
    - We have legions of Christians who’ve been baptized but are not really engaged with their faith
    - We have scores of Christians in the pews who’ve been baptized but aren’t really engaging with their faith much outside of a one-hour window on Sunday mornings...occasionally.
- The promise is that what God has begun. God will complete.

*The First Trauma is realizing that you’re part of the problem, that you’re a sinner.*

- Remedy – by the power of the Holy Spirit, you become a Christian.

*The Second Trauma is when you realize that just because you’re a Christian, there’s no guarantee you’re not still sinning.*

### **The Miss Barksdale Story**

- Go back to first grade
- At some level, I’ve never really gotten better
  - o On my laptop right now are about three books I’ve completed
    - Haven’t edited – I hate that.
- But you see the point remains
  - o Nobody likes being corrected.
    - We call churches that expect certain behaviors from their members cults, and for good reason.
    - But that doesn’t negate the fact that we just naturally deviate from the flightplan so to speak, even being Christians.

### **Doughnut Hole STORY**

- Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
  - o Moved the Hole.

- Gluttony – Cute, but it's sin.
- One of the dangers of grace is that it gives us an even easier out than you might imagine
  - We can come to our shortcomings and say, well, God forgives me.
    - Paul in Romans
      - Should sinning go on that grace may abound?
      - BY NO MEANS! He says
  - YES GOD FORgives you
  - YES GOD WANTS YOU TO DO BETTER
- The fact of the matter is that we need ongoing correction WHICH REQUIRES SOMETHING OF US
  - We submit ourselves to some sort of authority
    - That's the role of your relationship with the Word
      - Jesus Christ as forgiver
      - The Bible as the lens by which we see ourselves as sinners.
      - I also suggest an Anam Cara – a soul friend
        - Someone you're talking to about your struggles and your troubles
          - My struggle is doughnuts, at least that's the one I'm telling you about. There are others. My friends know about them.

Things are getting worse

- Pop Tart story – SKIMPFLATION
- There was a meeting in that boardroom. People were there.
  - Let's just say that for a person there, the personal payoff for the change was \$2000.
    - Would you?
      - HINDSIGHT BIAS
        - We always believe that we'll choose right or virtuously but the science says otherwise.
  - And here's where it gets really sticky
    - That person, the one who profited? Guess who put him there?
      - Well, chances are, you had a hand in it.
        - You hold that stock in your portfolio YOU have entrusted a board of directors and given them one mission – make MONEY which.
- Yes, you have to admit, you probably would.
- What would change the calculus?
- The fact of the matters
  - A relationship with Jesus Christ would
  - Now think, what if everyone in that room had a relationship with Jesus Christ.
    - Is the outcome any different? Maybe
    - But what's certain, the hearts of the people in the room will be right.

How Churches formed in the Ancient Times

- 2 years of practice, training, education, support
- Now, we dump some water on your head, hand you a giving envelope and head you out into the world
  - *We are getting substandard results because our practice of the faith is insufficient.*

*What the heck happened to the church*

- People left
- Consumer Churches gave people more of what they wanted and less of what they didn't
  - Gone were committees and commitments
    - Just come and see the show, really. Toss whatever you've got in the bucket

- Gone were catechisms and communion
  - o Relics of slower times and less hurried lives
- In were flashy bands and screams,
- Gone were pews and stained glass windows
- In were laser shows, levitating drummers and stadium seating
- And, yeah, we kind of resent them.
  - o But if we had been doing our jobs, people wouldn't have left.
    - The truth of the matter is that we abandoned the Word generations ago
      - Through sophisticated theologians like Karl Barth and Paul Tillich, we simply do NOT believe in the same way as past believers
        - o We've been blinded by philosophy
          - Don't miss that – the Bible TOLD US THAT WOULD HAPPEN in works like Second Timothy, Second Peter and Jude.

There is a real way to practice the faith. AN easy way to be a quote-unquote “real” Christian....

- Come to church, that's the first step
- THEN...
  - o Read your Bibles
    - Look for moral instructions not trivia
      - I remember getting a book all about the types of stones on some relic mentioned in the Bible
        - o An entire book? Good for the curious, a rabbit trail for the seeker.
          - Stay on the ethical teachings in the Bible.
  - o Concordances
  - o Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, James – Seek out the wisdom of the Bible

Confess your Sins

- To Jesus Christ
- To a soul friend
- To everyone