Real Relationships – Real Work

Greg Kline · Genesis 3:1–6

INTRODUCTION

- Real relationships take real work. It takes upkeep. It takes pressure-packed moments. Forgiveness, even after those pressure-packed moments.
- We're going to look at things from Eve's perspective as a friend who's in need, and then from Adam's perspective, as a friend who should be there to help.

1 We Have to Be Willing to Find Wise Counsel

Proverbs 27:6; Proverbs 12:15; 1 Kings 12

- We need to be taking in and finding wise counsel.
- Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
- First of all, I have to be willing to seek out and find somebody who will tell me I'm wrong.
- So the first step this morning is to find wise counsel and secondly, be willing to accept it.

2 Don't Fixate on Struggles; Don't Stare at the Tree

Proverbs 23:29–31; 2 Timothy 2:22–23; Romans 12:9

- Don't fixate on struggles. Don't stare at the tree.
- Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end, it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder.
- We should not be fixating on sin. In fact, when we look at 2 Timothy chapter 2 and verse 22, we are to flee youthful lust.
- What's the best way to avoid sin? Flee it.

3 We Have to Be Prepared

Proverbs 11:14; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

- The point is she knew what she was about to do was sinful. The devil didn't trick her. He didn't confuse her.
- Where there is no guidance, a people falls. But in an abundance of counselors, there is safety.
- We have to proactively surround ourselves with wisdom, not just for a panicked conversation, but for daily growth.
- Who's your other half of this faithful walk? Who is there for you, not in a moment of crisis, but every day along the way?

4 When Somebody Is in Need, I Need to Stay Close

Hebrews 10:24–25; Job 2; Ecclesiastes 4

- When somebody is in need, I need to stay close to them.

- If I'm going to stay close to somebody who's in need, that means giving up what? My time. My desires.
- Let us consider how to stir one another up to love and good works.
- It's not about rule following, it's about a real relationship. And to have a real relationship, I have to be there with you.

5 I Must Be Willing to Speak Up

Proverbs 27:6; James 5:15–20; 1 Corinthians 5

- It's one thing to take those wounds. It's another to have to deliver those wounds.
- Whether he was there or not, he didn't speak up. He wasn't a leader.
- Whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.
- You know when that punishment is useless? When I have no relationship with somebody.

6 I Can't Ever Compromise

2 Timothy 2:22–26

- Being the helpful friend doesn't mean just staying close and speaking up. It means I can't ever compromise.
- While I don't answer for your life and you don't answer for mine, I do answer for how I've helped you.
- The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome, but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.
- The serpent wasn't the only one guilty that day. Eve wasn't the only one guilty that day.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I also need to remember that's not just about me reaching out to help others. It's about me needing to be willing to raise my hand up and say, I need help too.**

MY NOTES