Unbalanced Relationships

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INTRODUCTION

- We might say that what makes a relationship good, great, even perfect, is when there's balance in that relationship.
- But you know, in reality, most relationships aren't that perfect. They're not that balanced.
- Relationships where one partner seems to be giving so much more than the other one. And how do we maintain those relationships?

1 Our Unbalanced Relationship With the World

Matthew 5:10–12; Matthew 5:43–44; 1 Peter 3:8–9

- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- But I say to you, love your enemies. Bless those who curse you. Do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.
- And so what are you to do in return in this unbalanced relationship? You're to love them.
- Not returning evil for evil. Or reviling for reviling. But on the contrary, blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

2 The Strong Christian and the Weak Christian

Romans 15:1–3

- There's always going to be those who are stronger in the faith, and there's always going to be those who are struggling in their faith.
- We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
- Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please himself.
- It is the strong Christian who is to bear with the weak.

3 Husbands and Wives: Marriage Is Rarely 50-50

Ephesians 5:22–25; Ephesians 5:33

- Wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church.
- Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for her.
- He doesn't say, husbands, you love your wives when she gives you the respect that you deserve.
- He also didn't say, wives, you respect your husbands if they love you the way they ought to love you. There's an imbalance innate in that relationship.
- Marriage is rarely 50-50. Marriage is rarely 100-100.

4 The Ultimate Unbalanced Relationship: Us and God

Luke 17:5–10

- That there's obedience, there's conditions that we must meet. There are things that we must do in this relationship.
- So likewise, when you've done all those things which are commanded, say this. We're still just unprofitable servants. We just did what was our duty to do.
- The scale does not even move. When we put what we've done for God on one side and what God has done, is doing and will do for us on the other side.
- Let's be thankful that God gives and loves and blesses and never questions or hesitates because he's doing more than we are.
- If we love as he loves, if we live as he lives, we understand that in our relationships, it's okay for it to be unbalanced.

THE CHALLENGE

Would you come to him in faith, repenting of your sins, confessing that faith, and be baptized this morning and enter into the most blessed of all relationships as unbalanced as it is?

MY NOTES