

Unstuck , Sermon #3 in the Series, “A Better Marriage” Oct 19 2008

INTRO: Car in the mud.

1. Unstuck from being Unrepentant or Unforgiving.

Matthew 6:12-15 (HCSB)

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

¹⁴ “For if you forgive people their wrongdoing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well.

¹⁵ But if you don’t forgive people, your Father will not forgive your wrongdoing.

Luke 17:3-4 (HCSB)

³ Be on your guard. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

⁴ And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and comes back to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

1 John 1:9 (HCSB)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Colossians 3:13 (HCSB)

¹³ accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also you must [forgive].

Five Language of Apology by Gary Chapman and Jennifer Thomas

p. 22 – “The good news is that the art of apology can be learned. What we have discovered in our research is that there are five fundamental aspects of an apology. We call them the five languages of apology. Each of them is important. But for a particular individual, one or two of the languages may communicate more effectively than the others. The key to good relationships is learning the apology language of the the other person and being willing to speak it. When you speak their primary language, you make it easier for them to genuinely forgive you. When you fail to speak their

language, it makes forgiveness more difficult because they are not sure if you are genuinely apologizing.”

Expressing Regret – “*I am sorry.*”

Accepting Responsibility – “*I was wrong.*”

Making Restitution – “*What can I do to make it right?*”

Genuinely Repenting – “*I’ll try not to do that again.*”

Requesting Forgiveness – “*Will you please forgive me?*”

2. Unstuck from being Unstable.

Matthew 7:24-27 (HCSB)

²⁴ “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock.

²⁵ The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.

²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

²⁷ The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!”

(Leanne’s Unicycle)

Passages of Marriage by Dr. Frank and Mary Alice Minrith

p. 8 “*We have found that if a marriage is not growing, it’s dying, just as any living organism. When a marriage gets hung up in a passage, it ceases growing. Growth is, therefore, critical. ... Passages are predictable and necessary stages, involving the physical, the emotional, and the spiritual. Through them, partners journey toward the lifetime goal of growth as individuals and as a couple.*

First Passage – Young Love, the first two years

Second Passage – Realistic Love, the 3rd through tenth years

Third Passage – Comfortable Love, the eleventh through the twenty-fifth years

Fourth Passage – Renewing Love, the twenty-sixth through the thirty-fifth year

Fifth Passage – Transcendent Love, thirty six years and thereafter

3. Unstuck from being unbudgeted and unplanned.

Always running out of \$s and time puts great stress on the marriage.

Proverbs 28:20,22 (HCSB)

²⁰ A faithful man will have many blessings, but one in a hurry to get rich will not go unpunished.

²² A greedy man is in a hurry for wealth; he doesn't know that poverty will come to him.

Psalms 90:12 (HCSB)

¹² Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (HCSB)

¹⁵ Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—

¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

(What is the difference in two gardens? One overrun with weeds, the other beautiful?)

4. Unstuck from being unmotivated.

Revelation 3:14-16 (HCSB)

¹⁴“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: “The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator of God’s creation says:

¹⁵I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot.

¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth.

Proverbs 6:6-11 (HCSB)

⁶Go to the ant, you slacker! Observe its ways and become wise.

⁷Without leader, administrator, or ruler,

⁸it prepares its provisions in summer; it gathers its food during harvest.

⁹How long will you stay in bed, you slacker? When will you get up from your sleep?

¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest,

¹¹and your poverty will come like a robber, your need, like a bandit.

Complacency in my spiritual life; my personal relationship with God.

Complacency in my own life; personally in a rut.

Complacency in my marriage; no energy invested in growth.

Conclusion: Leaving your car stuck makes the situation get gradually worse.

Leaving your marriage stuck means you are slowly dying instead of living; settling for a shell of what God intended for you and your spouse.