

“Unstuck,” Continued Oct 26, 2008

Sermon #4 in the Series, “A Better Marriage”

Last Sunday, unstuck from unrepentance and unforgiveness and being unstable.

3. Unstuck from being unbudgeted.

Always running out of \$s and having debts weigh on you put great stress on the marriage.

Proverbs 27:23-24 (HCSB)

²³ Know well the condition of your flock, and pay attention to your herds,

²⁴ for wealth is not forever; not even a crown lasts for all time.

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.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,

¹² so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

Proverbs 22:7 (HCSB)

⁷ The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is a slave to the lender.

- Getting an accurate statement of income and expenses;
- planning for non-monthly expenses;
- getting rid of debt;
- building an emergency fund;
- having your income exceed your income so you can build savings

4. Unstuck from being unplanned.

Psalm 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? = Time and Effort)

(Life without Margins)

5. 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:

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

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

Proverbs 6:6-11 (HCSB)

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

⁷ Without leader, administrator, or ruler,

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

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

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

¹¹ and 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.

6. Get Unstuck with the power of praying God's Word!

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (HCSB)

³ For although we are walking in the flesh, we do not wage war in a fleshly way,
⁴ since the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments
⁵ and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Hebrews 4:12 (HCSB)

¹² For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as to divide soul, spirit, joints, and marrow; it is a judge of the ideas and thoughts of the heart.

Ephesians 6:17-18 (HCSB)

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word.
¹⁸ With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and stay alert in this, with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

"I have never discovered a more powerful way to demolish strongholds in my life than praying scripture." - Beth Moore, Praying God's Word

2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (HCSB)

¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a terrible death, and He will deliver us; we have placed our hope in Him that He will deliver us again.
¹¹ And you can join in helping with prayer for us, so that thanks may be given by many on our behalf for the gift that came to us through [the prayers of] many.

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

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

It is time to "come to yourself" like the prodigal son; and decide to stop doing things your own way, and do them God's way. Get out of the mud; get unstuck; and return to God.