

5/25/08

Psychological Warfare The Battle for the Mind and Spirit

Opening: My granddaughter Skyler is here with us today you can easily identify her – she's the most beautiful child in church today. Terrible Two's

Ryan ...excellent parents kind of child Two minutes alone is too many ... mouth – fall off of builders pick up truck Pick up truck ... Some body help the boy

Teens are staying with us this morning ... we need you exuberance and energy you need us our experience and wisdom ... we need each other and this is especially true of Christians

Opening prayer ... protection

Opening: Memorial Day Personal Thank you Vets and those who have served and are serving in the U. S. Armed Forces. I want to speak to you about a different kind of warfare not with guns but weapons that are just or perhaps even more devastating

Our focus: The paralyzing psychological attacks of Satan

Devil is real according to the Bible ... and the many comments from Jesus

What he is not ... What he is ... one of three of the most powerful class of angels? Ark angels or Seraphim ... you probably know the names of the other two ... Michael, _____ and Lucifer who lead a rebellion to overthrow God himself Star Wars in reverse

Jesus called him the evil genius of this world ... He knows our weaknesses and fears and knows how to capitalize on using them against us

Read 1 Peter 5:8 *Read Ephesians 6:12* Spiritual wickedness in high (power –authority) places

Psychological tools used against us:

- Fear and anxiety are incredible tools for discouragement and depression
- Guilt that remains after you have committed it to the Lord but it continues to haunt you ... Not from God
- Doubt and pessimism
- Anger and hostility growing out of frustration from the difficulties of life
- Fatigue Vince Lombardi "Fatigue makes cowards of us all" every thing seems worse when you are exhausted

We only have time to focus on inferiority and inadequacy this morning

We are so concerned what others will think or that we might fail that we are unwilling to even try!

Why it is so quiet the first couple of days of school? In elevators or airports especially small close contact impersonal places - no eye contact ... no risks

I know what is most important to kids from grade school through High school they think of it from the moment they begin to get dressed to the moment they get off the bus taking them home.

What is it? Avoidance of public humiliation no matter the cost

Story of training – orientation session 3 hour icy session with coffee waiting in the wings
Organized facilitator ... one at a time

Not just Kids! Adults young and older suffer from inferiority especially older adults who suffer from and onslaught of media advertisements that glorify youth and teach us to avoid evidence of aging lines, and spots at all costs
Back aches and dentures are a thing of scorn and there is tremendous discouragement for older Americans and Christians are not exempt

Focus on the Family did a survey on the sources of depression among women in their thirties: Married supposedly happily and in good health
Asked them to take this survey and rank from worst to least a list of ten sources so depression
The list included:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Absence of romantic love in marriage | 2. In-law conflict |
| 3. Self esteem | 4. Problems with children |
| 5. Financial difficulties | 6. Loneliness, isolation and boredom |
| 7. Sexual problems in marriage | 8. Menstrual and physiological problems |
| 9. Fatigue and time pressure | 10. Aging |

Number one choice was **low self esteem** 50% - 80% put it in the top 5

Our enemy uses inferiority to paralyze and immobilize us by isolation:

I. Use inferiority to get us to withdraw

First thing people say when asked to help in church? Oh I couldn't do that ... Teach a class, stand up in front of people and sing in a worship team, go to visit someone in the hospital

Fear because of inferiority is the root
Frustrates Pastors because they hear it again and again and guess who else hears it again and again...
God hears it too

Exodus 4 Moses and the burning bush God to Moses ... go to the Pharaoh tell him to let my people go I will be with you ... **Excuses** God I can't go I'm no body ... I'm not capable you know I have a speech impediment ... I stutter ... I can't do it verse 14 tells us how angry God became with Moses for those excuses ...

Do you know why? God would not ask you to do something if he did not know you could do it
And if you notice God never selects super stars he takes ordinary people filled with flaws just like you and me

God sees the potential in you He know what great things you will accomplish if you will trust Him and understand that it will never be just you but God working through you by His Spirit!

Death of Antoinette Tomassi ... my mentor, friend she had a gift could see as God does the great potential in people.

You will never know what you can accomplish until you step up and try

II. To use inferiority to contaminate our relationship with God

If I'm worthless of no value God must not love me either. Anyway its halfway His fault – He made me this way ... I don't think He loves me

Letter to a child psychologist form a boy name Chris:

The reason I feel this way is because some big person, I think he was thirteen years old called me a turtle. I know he said that because of my plastic surgery. I think God hates because of my lip and when I die He'll probably send me to hell.

III. Use inferiority to impose conformity ton kids

Drugs – smoking – sex

They know its wrong – dangerous but when in a car or group of 5 or 6 other peers they often do not have **courage** to say no

Research shows that many teen age girls ages 13, 14, 15 see **virginity** as an insult to get rid of before someone finds out about it.

Choir of Kids 48 singing the Battle Hymn of The Republic ... fainting

Power if Suggestion ... conformity

The 1963 Miligram psychological experiment using electrical shocks ...

IV. Using inferiority to isolate us from others

Step back ... take no risks ... find a safe - non threatening place or life

Paul wrote to the early church encouraging them to be sure they gathered together to encourage and strengthen each other.

A person alone is easy prey ... see wolf packs, jackals, and organized gangs

Beatles – Eleanor Rigby Directed at the uncaring Church of England She symbolizes all women and people everywhere

Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice at a church where a wedding has been – lives in a dream

Wearing a face that she keeps in a jar by the door – who is it for?

Chorus:

Look at all the lonely people where do they all come from? Look at all the lonely people where do they all belong?

Father McKenzie darning his socks in the night when there's nobody there - no one comes near

Look at him working writing the words of sermon no one will hear what does he care?

Look at all the lonely people where do they all come from? Look at all the lonely people where do they all belong?

*Eleanor Rigby died in the church and was buried along with her name no body came
 Father McKenzie wiping the dirt from his hands as he walks from the grave no one was saved*

Look at all the lonely people ...

Eleanor Rigby lives on your street, shops where you banks and shops where you do she is in church today - both men and women

She/he is the kind of person we look right through as we look for our friends

They are here with all these people but all alone

And we hold the key to defeating the work of the enemy in this isolation and loneliness

Christianity is built for an individualistic society – a ME First society

Jesus put the highest priority on personal relationships on reaching to those who so desperately needed him.

Jesus said to his followers - disciples you have not chosen me ... I have chosen you (selected you)

You are not inferior! You are not worthless you are valuable and precious in God's eyes and have great potential to foil and destroy the plans of the enemy in not only your life but in the lives of the Eleanor Rigby's all around us starting with those who are here today.

You have not chosen me but I have chosen you ... let sink in ... let it begin by saying yes to the Lord in having His way in your life

Let begin by reaching out to one another here and then beyond this place for purpose of God's plan the purpose for which you were specifically designed