

CHOOSING GOD'S NARRATIVE WHEN WE ARE ABUSED

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I. THE MIRACLE OF UNITY THAT THE FATHER WILL BRING

Jn. 17:23 *"I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me..."*

A. The Holy Spirit is preparing the church to enter this reality. The greatest social miracle that will affect history is in this prayer of Jesus. He said that His family was going to love each other as deeply as the Father and the Son love each other and it will be a worldwide reality in the body of Christ. It is something indescribably great and glorious, although obviously it will fully happen until Jesus returns.

B. This unity does not happen just because the Lord moves His hand and everything happens magically; it is going to take place in real time in the lives of normal Christians. **It is important to understand that while the Holy Spirit is lifting this reality there is also a culture of betrayal that is escalating in the world and also in the church. Jesus warned us about this:**

Matt. 24:10-12 *"And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.... ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold."*

C. Which of the two is going to happen? Are we going to be a united family or a culture of betrayal? Millions of believers are moving in one of these two directions at the same time. **No one is going to be forced into either supernatural unity or betrayal, each person will choose it by many small decisions he/she makes every day over the years.** This happens both in the natural family, in the church and even in the nation.

D. Betrayal happens when there is a meaningful relationship. If a stranger attacks you that is not treason, it is only persecution, but when a friend or family member turns against you it is treason. **Jesus said that the situation was going to increase to the point that many believers were going to surrender to that influence of darkness.**

II. JESUS DEFENDS JOSHUA THE HIGH PRIEST

Zech. 3:1-2 *"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?"*

A. The high priest was being accused by Satan that he was disqualified as the leader of his generation because of his failings and deficiencies but the angel Lord appeared and defended him. Part of what Satan said was true, the high priest had flaws in his personal life but Satan was exaggerating it and wanted to make his mistakes the main narrative of this man's story. **Satan wants your mistakes to be the main narrative about your life and although we all have deficiencies that is not the main thing before God. The Lord said we are going to give Joshua new clothes and a new anointing to keep him going.**

B. Satan's strategy is to accuse the leader so that he is overwhelmed with shame and condemnation so that he will give up; and then he wants to raise up other

people in God's family to accuse him and for Joshua to enter into this contest as well so that he would begin to accuse others.

Rev. 12:10 "...for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

- C. **The accusation is so effective in defeating us that this is why the devil makes it day and night. This is his strategy to end the miracle of the John 17 family unity.** Satan is working in the midst of all the work of God in the whole world because if he accuses us effectively, the work of God will not be carried out. **When the church gives rise to the accusation it breaks down.**

III. THERE IS A DIVINE NARRATIVE ABOUT YOUR LIFE

- A. **As we have seen Satan has a narrative of accusation about our lives and he wants our faults and deficiencies to become the main story of our life and not of who we are before God.** And that doesn't end there, he wants the failures and shortcomings of your friends and family to be the whole story in your mind when you see them.
- B. **We need to cultivate God's narrative about our lives and ours to grow in the mature love of Jn. 17 and we do it step by step.** Yes, there will be an increase in the Holy Spirit to help us but that does not replace the dozens of small decisions we make daily to cultivate that agreement with God's narrative.

1 Sam. 16:7 "...For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

- C. This passage is very important and it is very easy to lose sight of the depth of what it says. **We see the outward appearance** (achievements, failures, etc.) **and we think that this is also how God evaluates people, but God looks at the movements of the heart.** Many times we label people for their failures or shortcomings.

1 Cor. 4:5 "Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time... who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God."

- D. **"do not judge anything before the time"** The word ***judge*** is not only a slight but definitive evaluation of what the brother is. What this text says is that you do not come to final conclusions about that brother until the Lord gives the final count. **The Lord says you cannot know my story with that person until I return and clarify everything.**
- E. **"Which will also clarify the hidden"** This scares us because our motives are not always good and we do not always believe the best, but the Lord sees that most of your thoughts are: *I want to love you, I want to be free.* **Yes, you have had bad thoughts but you have thousands of thoughts where you do want and God has seen your desire to obey him.**
- F. **"And then each one will receive his praise from God"** This passage says that when God reveals the movements of a sincere heart He will affirm that believer and give him the honor that is due to him. **Many people see the facts but do not see the divine story. It is not only about you evaluating yourself but how you evaluate someone who is treating you badly.** The Lord says: **I want you to feel what I feel and see what I see when you see that person who is mistreating you.** We don't like to see that side we just want them to stop bothering us.

- G. If you take the accusation that Satan brings against that person instead of taking the divine narrative about his life, you will never have a healthy relationship with him/her. Most people want relationships to be healed until others change. The principle of relationship healing does not begin when the other person changes but when you begin to see and feel what God sees and feels about those who are mistreating you.

IV. GOD'S THERAPY TO OVERCOME WHEN WE ARE ABUSED

Matt. 5:44 "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"

1. **I want you to bless those who mistreat you.** That is, speak well of that person, find a true virtue of him/her and express it with your mouth. Even the rudest people have at least a couple of good virtues; maybe he loves his mom and her dog. **Jesus is not telling us to invent virtues but rather He says that we find virtues and speak it when the person is not there. It is not about flattery but about something real. It is now to stop talking about the deficiencies they have.**
2. **I want you to do good to those who mistreat you:** Share some of your resources with them, it may be a little time, money; maybe help them with something. This sounds the most difficult for us but the Lord says: I want you to act in the opposite spirit. You don't have to give him your car or your house, it is something small and practical.
3. **I want to talk to Me about that person and ask Me to bless them:** For those who are very hurt, asking them to bless the one who has hurt them so much may seem impossible and the Lord tells us: **I will not necessarily do what you are asking me but it is crucial for your freedom and for you to look like Me because that's what I do.**

Matt. 5:45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

- B. **The reason why God wants us to do this to people who are treating us badly, because that makes us like Him.** He treats evildoers that way. Sometimes we say that we would like to be like Him but not to that degree. **This is the most supernatural lifestyle anyone could have but you cannot do this unless you are cultivating a divine narrative on that person.** At first this may seem so uncomfortable and difficult but if we exercise this muscle and over time it frees you and you don't even realize it.
- C. **When we do these three things, it frees us not so much the person who mistreats us.** We did not think that blessing them would bless us but in fact that is what happens. **Many of us think that we have no enemies but we do have people, family and friends who have mistreated us. When the Lord asks us to love our enemies He asks us to cover their faults.**
- 1 Pet. 4:8 "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."**

- D. **In our culture today what everyone does is seek and expose the mistakes of others as much as they can, that is what politics and much of the mass media are about.**

- E. **Here is a balance**, if someone is a predator, is cheating people or sexually abusing someone, that person already has a history and they are looking for more victims there we can expose them to protect someone else from falling into their clutches. **Although that boundary has become blurred and we expose all flaws regardless of whether he is a predator or not.**
- F. It is common to hear believers even on social networks speaking ill of someone and by entering this game we are promoting the accusation of Satan against that person but the Lord tells us: ***I want you to get into the conversation to promote my narrative about their lives.***
- G. **The church is very confused at this time because the culture of the world values exposing the worst in people to prosecute and punish them and to show that we are right and that they are wrong. They expose them for personal gain.**
- H. **Many say: I am only telling the truth** and they think they are very upright, but even so that "truth" is not the whole story of that person and what we must do is highlight everything else that God sees as their desire to change, when he/she does something good, etc. You may feel very fair but you are actually slandering them. **This is the logic in the culture of betrayal that is growing in the world, but you have nothing to do with that mentality.**
- I. **People are so upset that with their actions they are saying no matter that You Lord have a bigger narrative**, I am going to expose them. God says that He is going to bring hundreds of millions of his children to the supernatural miracle of **Jn. 17**.
- J. **It is important to understand that God does not like to be mistreated, the point is that God has a more important story for that person and He wants you to enter it and you do it one step at a time, day after day, doing these three things. that God asks.**
- K. **When we do not forgive we are giving that person a piece of our heart and therefore we cannot love God completely. When we overcome the culture of accusation, then people are mobilized and resources are unleashed to do God's work. This is something that we apply in the first place is our family, church; work and with the rulers.**

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In what direction have you moved in these years towards unity or isolation?
2. Which do you feel is the strongest narrative about your own life, divine or secular?
3. What is the narrative that is most prevalent in you about others and what can you do to correct it?