The Sharing Choice
Matthew 5:9

5/2/21

Outline

For Review: 7 Choices to make in order to live healthier and overcome the hurts, hang-ups and habits that are holding you back from experiencing the life God wants you to have:

Choice #1 Admit you have a problem and ask God and others for help! *("vs. 3 poor in spirit")*

Choice #2 Drop the mask "I'm okay" and let your unhappiness with yourself or life to motivate you to make some changes. *(vs. 4 "mourn")*

Choice #3 Let's God be your human whisperer. Yield yourself to God *(vs. 5 "the meek")*

Choice #4 Clear your conscience with God and others. *(vs. 8 "pure in heart")*

Choice #5 Replace unhealthy choices, patterns, habits with healthy ones by reading scripture and bringing your choices in alignment with God's teaching. *(vs. 6 "hunger and thirst for righteousness")*

Choice #6 Forgive those who hurt you and reconcile broken relationships if possible. *(vs. 7 "merciful")*

Choice #7 Keep growing in the grace of God and in relationship with God. *(Vs. 6 "hunger and continue hungering for God")*

How to Know If You Are Growing

1. The pull of your _____new healthy choice is stronger than the pull of your _____.

2. Your _____ is becoming firmly rooted in Christ.

"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption." 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

3. You are able to _____ with their struggles.

Choice #8: The Sharing Choice.

"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

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"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:7

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me. That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
I Corinthians 12:9-10

How You Can Use Your Weaknesses to God's Glory

I. By Sharing How God Got Your Attention

Acts 9

"You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors. But …God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles." Galatians 1:13-16

While Sharing Your Story Share:

1. Your Feelings

"My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them." Romans 9:2

2. Share Your Faults & Failures.

"No one is righteous—
not even one." Psalm 14:3

"For everyone has sinned (past tense, we have all made mistakes. We all have skeletons in the closet); and fall short (present tense, we are making mistakes now!) of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16

3. Share Your Frustrations.

"My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!" Galatians 4:19-20

4. Share Your Fears.

"For I am afraid that when I come I won't like what I find, and you won't like my response. I am afraid that I will find quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior. Yes, I am afraid that when I come again, God will humble me in your presence." 2 Corinthians 12:20-21

II. By Sharing What God Taught You through Your Particular Struggles

The Apostle Paul
"*But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'* (That's what God said to him…this is what he learned from it)…*Therefore*

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I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me…. ***For when I am weak, then I am strong."*** 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Peter
"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right." Acts 10:34-35

Job

"Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.
You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.'
My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.
Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:3-6

III. By Sharing How God Redeemed the Situation

Joseph
"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." Genesis 50:20

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

IV. By Sharing How God Gave You Hope through the Whole Ordeal

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." I Peter 3:15