

## THE VEIL OF FAMILIARITY

WILLIS 9/12/10

Jn10:10

Our focus these past 3 weeks has been the Breaking of Barriers and the Expanding of Boundaries for the purpose of Making the Bride, the Church of Jesus Christ, Ready. When it comes to the breaking of barriers, there are 2 types of barriers we deal with:

- 1. Circumstantial Barriers: These are the barriers in life that are tied to the circumstances of the moment.** Circumstantial barriers may be health related, financially related or relationally related. Circumstantial barriers have to do with what is going on around us.
- 2. Dispositional Barriers: These are those barriers in our lives tied to mindsets, emotions or strongholds of the soul.** Dispositional barriers cast a presuppositional barrier on everything we do.
  - Fear is a dispositional barrier. Negativity is a dispositional barrier. Dispositional barriers have to do with the condition of our heart; they reflect the nature of what is going on within us.
  - **Dispositional barriers are one of the primary ways in which the devil steals kills and destroys.** We read of it in Jn10:10

Jn10:10

Exactly how does the devil steal, kill and destroy? I have never known him to knock on someone's door and announce his attentions. **The devil does his stealing, killing and destroying through representative agents that act as destructive barriers needing to be torn down.**

- Last week we dealt with agent#1...The Barrier of Fear. Today we want to deal with the devil's 2<sup>nd</sup> agent of destruction...The Barrier of Familiarity.

I have entitled what I want to share today, "The Veil of Familiarity." I used the word "Veil" to describe this barrier to readiness because familiarity is a veiling power that undermines the value of what we see and possess.

- **Familiarity is a thief...but the nature of its thievery is not the removing of something from ones possession but the veiling of that things value so the possession is easily given away.**
- Familiarity comes to veil the worth of a peoples core values. It doesn't have to steal those values if it can convince us they are common.

- A presence driven, generationally joined, covenant community madly in love with Jesus Christ...that's no big deal, everybody has that...young people radically in love with Jesus who know who they are...no big deal, all Christian kids are like that.
- A Church with delivery systems of transformation proven over 25 years...no big deal. No it is a big deal, to do anything short of giving glory to God and shouting it from the roof tops, would be sin...the sin of familiarity.

**In light of recent inflation I think we would all agree the 7 Deadly Sins have increased at least to 9.** In fact in a Vatican Report dating March 2008 they said the original 7 are now 14...3 of which are Extreme Wealth, Illegal Drugs and Not Recycling.

- However heinous those new 3 might be I am comfortable with just adding 2. Coming in at #8 is The Sin of Familiarity. Rounding out the list at #9 is The Sin of Familiarity.
- This sin is so insidious, so destructive it deserves double mention

**Familiarity breeds casualness. Casualness produces carelessness. Carelessness produces sin.** Uzzah became casual with the presence of God. Even though he was commanded not to touch the Ark, his familiarity produced a casualness that allowed him to become careless.

- His carelessness cost him his life.

Familiarity is insidious. The insidious of familiarity is found in the subtlety of its squeeze. We will see in a minute, **the driving force of familiarity is a demonic power called the python spirit (or the spirit of divination) that progressively squeezes its prey to death.**

- Familiarity is not a direct frontal attack, familiarity is a passive back door attack that first veils value then squeezes out life, excitement, expectation, participation...the insidiousness is all those factors remain in form but being they are veiled they lose their practical value.
- Familiarity doesn't ask for a divorce, it's happy to veil passion and extinguish the spark. Familiarity doesn't ask for the kids, it just veils their worth so they are left to themselves. It doesn't ask for your Church it just veils its value so it becomes common.

The strategy of this squeeze is 4 fold. We read of it in Mt13:53-58

1. **Familiarize: v.54** The familiarity of previous knowledge often blinds us of value. There was nothing incriminating in their prior knowledge...Jesus wasn't silenced because of sin or scandal, He was silenced because of the squeeze of familiarity.
2. **Criticize: v.57** They took offense because He was wise and performed astonishing miracles. The squeeze of familiarity produced a casualness that opened them up to jealousy and competition leaving them critical. Offense is like a python, if you take offense it will squeeze spiritual life from you. Critical people do not prosper spiritually.

3. **Equalize: v.55** Is not this the carpenter's son, isn't this Mary's boy. He may be wise but He is still just like us. Familiarity is fueled by the power of egalitarianism. We are all equal; the ground at the cross is level, no need for authority, no chain of command.
4. **Neutralize: v.57** A prophet has no honor in their own home town. In spite of their accomplishments the squeeze of familiarity veils the value of accomplishment. Familiarity doesn't deny accomplishment; it just neutralizes its value.

### Acts16:16-18

The Greek word for divination in v.16 is "poothone." From which we get the word "python." Some translations translate this as "the Python Spirit." The Python spirit is a spirit of familiarity that squeezes, it doesn't bite. It is subtle, insidious, passively aggressive

- Familiarity is just as comfortable using success as it is using defeat. Promotion works just as well for it as does failure. If success puts one in the squeeze of pride, familiarity will use success. If promotion puts the squeeze to Kingdom focus, familiarity will promote.
- Success and promotion are essential; as long as they don't come at the hand of familiarity
- **Familiarity with success is a thief that blinds us from spiritual reality.** (Joe walks away from the Lord but has tremendous success in business. Soon we are celebrating his business accolades and affirming his temporal success both of which veil him to his ultimate need...Jesus said it best "What shall it profit a man...")
- Have you ever noticed backslidden Christians usually prosper...temporarily. Some of our best musicians, best entertainers are backslidden believers. **Climbing to the top is not success if your ladder is leaning against the wrong wall.**

How Do We Break the Barrier of Familiarity?

1. **Focus on the Treasure not the Dirt: 2Cor4:7** Honor the treasure, speak of the treasure, share the treasure...if a treasure is kept to yourself you will become familiar with it, as you give the treasure away it's perceived value increases.
  - **Focusing on the treasure not the dirt breaks the barrier of our thought life.** "As a man thinks in his heart so is he." Spirit led thoughts break the barrier of familiarity.
  - To break familiarity you must change your focus, your thoughts, and your conversation. The dirt comes with the treasure but the value is in the treasure.
2. **Verbalize Honor: Pr18:21** Honor has the power to multiply. What you honor you receive more of. Negativity breeds familiarity. Honor overcomes familiarity. Life and death are in the power of the tongue and honor is the releasing of life.
  - **Verbalizing honor breaks the barrier of our word life.** Our words have the power to release a quality of life that overcomes familiarity. We can either speak those things that empower familiarity or those things that overcome it.

- **Words ascribe value; value determines honor.** John Kelley said to me, “CCK is the best example of an Apostolic Church he knows.” His words ascribed a specific value to who we are and what we do.
- What we don’t value we hide; what we value the most we put on display. **One of the best ways to break the barrier of familiarity is to put those things you value on display.**
- Display your faith, display your family, display your church...take them all out of hiding and shout from the roof tops the wonder of what God has done.