

MEN'S HUDDLE FOR SATURDAY, September 5, 2020 (VIA ZOOM)

TOPIC: Private Emotional Vandalism - Self Inflicted

In our last huddle we began a conversation about Emotional Spiritual Vandalism. We shared that vandalism is the deliberate destruction of or damage to public or private property. We talked about the Private (self-inflicted) and public emotional vandalism. We also touched briefly on the consequences and the action steps or remedies to dealing with this issue. This morning we will focus a little more in depth into the private or self-inflicted side of emotional or spiritual vandalism.

I shared with you that Paul gives us a glimpse into what this looks like in Romans chapter 7 verses 14-25; he calls it our “sinful nature”. He says in V.15 **15 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. (NLT)**

Romans 7:15 For I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled and bewildered by them]. I do not practice what I want to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate [and yielding to my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity]. (AMP)

What Paul is describing here is a self-inflicted, deliberate destruction of ourselves; it is by definition vandalism.

1. Broken Windows Theory

The theory suggests that policing methods that target minor crimes such as **vandalism, loitering, public drinking, jaywalking** and **fare evasion** help to create an atmosphere of order and lawfulness, thereby preventing more serious crimes. If I was going to sum it up in one phrase it would be, **“THE SMALL STUFF MATTER”**.

If you don't fix the broken windows things that don't belong will get in .

2. What are the small things, the small sins that when not dealt with are leading to greater chaos in our lives.

Genesis chapter 3:1-2 begins with a conversation between the serpent and Eve.

The question I ask is “where was Adam?”

Luke 16:10, **“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”**

What are those small things that we are dishonest with that when left untreated, unrepented, unsolved cause us to have issues in the “much”. Things like anger, pride,

impatience, those things that don't seem like a big deal. Those things that seem like they are just part of our personality but have larger consequences down the line.

3. Small things, secret things have a way of building on each other

In 2 Samuel 11 the bible gives us a great example of this with the story of David and Bathsheba.

2 Samuel 11:1 tells us: ***In the spring of the year,[a] when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.***

It's interesting to know that "when kings normally go out to war" "David stayed behind".

2 Samuel 11:2 tell us: ***Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.***

It is safe to say that it would have been better for him if he had gone with the army, then the sin he fell into would have been prevented. Something as small as not tending to his responsibility as King has a much larger consequence in the long term.

2 Samuel 11:2 also says, "he noticed a woman" other translations use the word "saw"

This wasn't just a glance

When you look at all that David went through in this situation, it's all self-inflicted. These are all personal spiritual and emotional vandalism.

4. Self-inflicted emotional vandalism not only has consequences for our lives but those around us as well.

2 Samuel 11:16 ***So Joab assigned Uriah to a spot close to the city wall where he knew the enemy's strongest men were fighting. 17 And when the enemy soldiers came out of the city to fight, Uriah the Hittite was killed along with several other Israelite soldiers.***

David's sin not only took Uriah's life but other Israelite soldiers as well.

5. Recognize our own faults

In Chapter 12 David is visited by the prophet Nahum who proceeds to tell him a story about a poor man who had a beloved sheep. A rich man who had plenty took the sheep of the poor man to feed a visitor.

2 Samuel 12:5 tells us that upon hearing the story “David was furious” and said that the man “deserves to die.” The prophet then tells David the story was about him.

Isn't it interesting that David can easily see the fault in someone else but can't recognize it in his own life.

6. The small, secret things will have very public consequences

We also see the consequences of David's self-inflicted vandalism.

2 Samuel 12:11 - 12 Nathan tell David, **11 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”** (NIV)

Other translations:

For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.” (ESV)

You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel.” (NLT)

You did your deed in secret; I'm doing mine with the whole country watching!” (MSG)

7. Conclusion

Self-inflicted emotional and spiritual vandalism can have lasting consequences, small seemingly things have a way of building up to create a large mess down the line and secret sins have a way of becoming public. There may be things in our lives right now that we have been unwilling to recognize or deal with. Maybe, like David, we are doing everything in our power to hide our sin and it's wearing us out.

If that's the case I want to share with you David's response to Nathan's message from God and God's response to David.

2 Samuel 12:13 Then David confessed to Nathan, **“I have sinned against the Lord.”** Nathan replied, **“Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin.”**

1 John 1:9 says, **But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.**

I want to encourage you to take the time to clean up the self-inflicted vandalism. Let's fix the broken window of past failures, let's remove the graffiti that is writing messages of fear in our hearts, let's end the jaywalking that is taking us into the wide road that leads to destruction.

QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the small things in a person's life that when not dealt with have big consequences?**
 - 2. What are the broken windows in your life that cause you to get cut? (Fear, inadequacy, inferiority, self-esteem, pain from the past, unresolved offense, avoidance, anger, faulty messaging)**
 - 3. In what ways have you duplicated your window breaking behavior in others?**
 - 4. What should our response be dealing with people that we know are operating out of a broken window mentality?**
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