



Part 3: The Limit Of My Compassion

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Opening Video = "Beautiful Mess Intro 2018" (1:07)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBkfjTszK08>

(pic of American Revolution pastor) In The Grace of Giving, Stephen Olford tells of a Baptist pastor during the American Revolution, Peter Miller, who lived in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, and enjoyed the friendship of George Washington. In Ephrata also lived Michael Wittman, an evil-minded sort who did all he could to oppose and humiliate the pastor. One day Michael Wittman was arrested for treason and sentenced to die. Peter Miller traveled seventy miles on foot to Philadelphia to plead for the life of the traitor.

"No, Peter," General Washington said. "I cannot grant you the life of your friend."

"My friend!" exclaimed the old preacher. "He's the bitterest enemy I have."

"What?" cried Washington. "You've walked seventy miles to save the life of an enemy? That puts the matter in different light. I'll grant your pardon." And he did.

Peter Miller took Michael Wittman back home to Ephrata--no longer an enemy but a friend.

That's compassion! How's your compassion tonight? Better yet, how limited is your compassion? That's where we find ourselves as we conclude this series Beautiful Mess tonight. Allow God to make beautiful your mess tonight...

I. Meet My Neighbor

a. Who Is My Neighbor?

- i. Pic of my neighborhood = I know my neighbors across the street and right next door to me, but your "neighbor" (according to Jesus) means more!
- ii. Stand with me and hear this situation play out...

Luke 10:25-29 = "One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: 'Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?' 26 Jesus replied, 'What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?' 27 The man answered, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 28 'Right!' Jesus told him. 'Do this and you will live!' 29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" (NLT)

- iii. BTW, Jesus continues with this man by telling the story of the Good Samaritan (you know that one).
- iv. "Who is my neighbor?"... good question.

b. Why Ask This Question?

- i. In this story, I really wonder if this was a legitimate question or just suspicious agenda from this guy.
- ii. We know he is a lawyer... a lot of people think those guys are sneaky = wants to narrow his responsibility
- iii. Is he looking for a reduction in the requirement, an easier way out? Probably!
- iv. We ask the exact same questions.

c. Do I Really Understand God's Love?

- i. "God's grace and love are huge, unlimited, able to cover every sin and every soul. His compassion has no bounds. If we are urged by Scripture to be like Him and to be conformed to His image, we know that such boundless love and grace are also required for us." (Chris Tiegreen)
- ii. We don't know how to handle that... we want boundaries... we want God to define who our "neighbor" is. Who is my neighbor?
- iii. Why do we always try to minimize the expanse of God's ways?

II. Love My Neighbor

a. Stop Minimizing God's Ways

- i. Do we forgive others? = only if they come to us and ask for forgiveness? No! Forgive everyone!
- ii. Do we love others? = only if they stay out of our ways? No! Love everyone wholeheartedly!
- iii. Are we going into all the world? = that's only some Christians, right? No! All of us are His disciples!

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- iv. We want God to define for us limits...
- b. Love Without Limits**
 - i. His love has NO limits!
 - ii. Let Him live in you without limits. Let Him open your eyes to a world of neighbors.
- c. See Those Neighbors**
 - i. They are all around you (maybe even next door)

Video = "Love Your Neighbor – Annie's Story" (4:34)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy6t9TjJwIQ>

- ii. Don't miss the opportunities all around you (see your neighbors and reach out to them)!

II. Let God Make Beautiful My Mess

a. We Have Messes

- i. Nothing you face, nothing you do, nowhere you go is a surprise to God.
- ii. He can still use your life (even though the messes):

Testimony Time = Jeff Benson (Lauren Beason's brother)

b. God Has A Message

- i. Remember where we have been in this series:
- ii. God takes trash and turns it into treasure (Landfill Harmonic)
- iii. God takes our messes and makes them into His message (like Jeff's life)
- iv. God takes our brokenness and makes it beautiful.
- v. This life is a Beautiful Mess, but it is God's beautiful mess! Amen and amen.



See your mess as beautiful and help you neighbor find the beauty in their mess.

Albertville First Baptist Church - AlbertvilleFBC.org - Justin Worden © 2018

part 3: the mess of my money

matthew 6:24

BEAUTIFUL
MESS

Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Read: "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29, NLT)

Review: As we conclude our Beautiful Mess series tonight, we learned how we are sometimes left with questions like this man in Luke 10. We are trying to understand the boundless, unlimited love of God and just don't completely get it. God's love has no limits and neither should ours.

React: Do you have a hard time understanding God's unlimited love? What's one way you could better live out unlimited love for others in your own life tonight? Be specific.

Leader's Notes:



Part 3: The Limit Of My Compassion

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, December 5, 2018

I. _____ My Neighbor

a. Who Is My _____?

Luke 10:25-29 = "One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: 'Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?' 26 Jesus replied, 'What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?' 27 The man answered, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 28 'Right!' Jesus told him. 'Do this and you will live!' 29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" (NLT)

b. Why _____ This Question?

- Is he looking for a reduction in the requirement, an easier way out?

c. Do I Really Understand _____?



- "God's grace and love are huge, unlimited, able to cover every sin and every soul. His compassion has no bounds. If we are urged by Scripture to be like Him and to be conformed to His image, we know that such boundless love and grace are also required for us." (Chris Tiegreen)

II. _____ My Neighbor

a. Stop _____ God's Ways

- Forgive? Love? Go into all the world?

b. Love Without _____



c. _____ Those Neighbors

Video = "Love Your Neighbor – Annie's Story" (4:34)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy6t9TjJwIQ>

III. Let God Make _____ My _____

a. We Have _____

Testimony Time = Jeff Benson (Lauren Beason's brother)

b. God Has A _____

- This life is a **Beautiful Mess**, but it is God's beautiful mess! Amen and amen.



Part 2: The Folly Of My Bitterness

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Opening Video = "Beautiful Mess Intro 2018" (1:07)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBkfjTszK08>

(two monks pic) One day, two monks were walking through the countryside. They were on their way to another village to help bring in the crops. As they walked, they spied an old woman sitting at the edge of a river. She was upset because there was no bridge, and she could not get across on her own. The first monk kindly offered, "We will carry you across if you would like." "Thank you," she said gratefully, accepting their help. So the two men joined hands, lifted her between them and carried her across the river. When they got to the other side, they set her down, and she went on her way.



After they had walked another mile or so, the second monk began to complain. "Look at my clothes," he said. "They are filthy from carrying that woman across the river. And my back still hurts from lifting her. I can feel it getting stiff." The first monk just smiled and nodded his head.

A few more miles up the road, the second monk griped again, "My back is hurting me so badly, and it is all because we had to carry that silly woman across the river! I cannot go any farther because of the pain." The first monk looked down at his partner, now lying on the ground, moaning. "Have you wondered why I am not complaining?" he asked. "Your back hurts because you are still carrying the woman. But I set her down five miles ago."

That is what many of us are like in dealing with our families. We are that second monk who cannot let go. We hold the pain of the past over our loved ones' heads like a club, or we remind them every once in a while, when we want to get the upper hand, of the burden we still carry because of something they did years ago." (Dr. Anthony T. Evans, Guiding Your Family in a Misguided World)

Last week we talked about "Folly" and how it tries to steal God's purpose behind our "Beautiful Mess". Tonight, let's talk about the folly of this thing: bitterness!

I. The Clutches Of Bitterness

a. How It Affects Others

- i. Evaluate your life right now. Your relationships right now. Are you holding on to any bitterness, resentment, or grudges toward anyone?
- ii. Does our mental punishment of someone else somehow bring them to justice? No!
- iii. Your bitterness really has little or no affect on other people (the ones you are bitter toward).

b. How It Affects You

- i. Bitterness is a sneaky and effective tool of the Devil! Don't you realize it?
- ii. "Bitterness eats away at our lives, stealing our joy and eroding our sense of peace, while never – not once – hurting the one we resent." (Chris Tiegreen)
- iii. How does it affect you?
 1. It's robbing ourselves of the joy God wants us to have! Satan's a "thief" (John 10:10)

II. The Comparison Of Bitterness

a. From Your Perspective

- i. What are things people can do to us that can cause us to be bitter? Be honest (not specific). (Students share)
 1. Examples = broken relationships, lying, stealing, gossiping/backstabbing, abuse, neglect, causing harm/pain, etc
- ii. Now, let's be honest, in our minds, these things seem justifiable to have bitterness toward someone.
- iii. From our perspective, but what about from God's perspective (He sees it all)
 1. Ant (pic) on the carpet example (we can see around us, zoom out, God sees over us)
 2. Isaiah 55:9 = "For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." (NLT)



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b. From God's Perspective

- i. Those who have sinned against us... serious offense, but our offenses against God are minor and easy for Him to overlook?
- ii. It's backwards! We should not be forgiven by God.
- iii. **Matthew 18:23-35** = story of a man who owes a king a million dollars and begs for grace and is forgiven but then that same man is owed a thousand dollars by another man and he punishes him and refuses to forgive him = the king speaks up "You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?" (vv.32-33, NLT). We do the same thing to God!
- iv. So, what can we do about this unforgiveness, this bitterness, that is eating us alive?

III. The Completion Of Bitterness

a. Under & Over

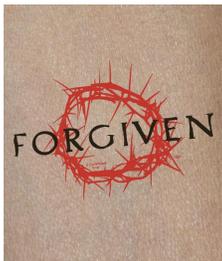
- i. Too often we underestimate the offense of our sins against God, overestimate the offenses of others against us.
- ii. Stop... compare your bitterness to God's forgiveness.
- iii. Andy Mineo has a great song about this on his latest album (Heroes For Sale), listen closely:

Music Video = "Andy Mineo - Bitter (single)" (3:39)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4h7XT1JNwk&feature=youtu.be>

Luke 6:37 = "Forgive others, and you will be forgiven." (NLT)

b. Forgiveness Leads To Forgiveness

- i. We need to forgive others! Not just because we have been forgiven, but also because we will be forgiven!
- ii. In this section of Scripture, Jesus is speaking about not judging, not condemning, and forgiving.
- iii. "The idea here is one should be gracious and quick to forgive." (Compact Bible Comm, pg. 714)
- iv. Quick! How quickly do you forgive someone? Maybe that's how much you understand God's instant forgiveness of you!! If not... it's FOLLY (a "mess")
- v. So, are you still holding any grudges? Get that person in your mind right now. Now, get a glimpse of God's mercy by forgiving them! (Make a phone call, send a message, drive to see them tonight)



Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Read: "Forgive others, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37, NLT)

Review: In effort to understand how to forgive others (no matter how much they have hurt us) we must truly understand how much God has forgiven us (and that holding on to our bitterness is only hurting ourselves). It's time to forgive!

React: Is there someone in your life you are withholding your forgiveness from right now? If so, how can you begin this process of reconciliation and overcome your bitterness?

Leader's Notes:



Part 2: The Folly Of My Bitterness

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, November 28, 2018

I. The _____ Of Bitterness

a. How It Affects _____

- Does our mental punishment of someone else somehow bring them to justice?



b. How It Affects _____

- "Bitterness eats away at our lives, stealing our joy and eroding our sense of peace, while never – not once – hurting the one we resent." (Chris Tiegreen)
- John 10:10

II. The _____ Of Bitterness

a. From _____ Perspective

- Isaiah 55:9

b. From _____ Perspective

- Matthew 18:23-35

III. The _____ Of Bitterness

a. _____ & _____

- Too often we underestimate the offense of our sins against God and overestimate the offenses of others against us

Music Video = "Andy Mineo - Bitter (single)" (3:39)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4h7XT1JNwk&feature=youtu.be>

Luke 6:37 = "Forgive others, and you will be forgiven." (NLT)

b. Forgiveness Leads To _____

- "The idea here is one should be gracious and quick to forgive." (Compact Bible Comm, pg. 714)
- Who are you still holding a grudge against tonight? What do you need to do about it tonight?



Part 1: The Voices In My Head

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Opening Video = "Beautiful Mess Intro 2018" (1:07)

(pic of Landfill Harmonic) Intro story = Swipe Right pages 179-180 (about Landfill Harmonic in Paraguay)

What a picture of how God takes trash and turns it into treasure, how God takes our messes and makes them into a message, how God takes brokenness and makes it beautiful. Welcome to Beautiful Mess (part 1).

I. What's So Beautiful About My Mess?

a. Life Is Messy

- i. The bad news: there is sin in the world!
- ii. Wherever there is sin there will be struggle and messy relationships and hardships, etc
- iii. The good news = there is a Savior in us
- iv. He has overcome sin and our messy lives (just believe)

b. Perseverance Is Beautiful

- i. The best way to find purpose in your pain or the message behind your mess, is to trust God through the struggle, through the mess
- ii. Persevere and believe! (Say that aloud with me)

There once was a man who lived a hard life... At 7 years old his family was forced out of their home on a legal technicality and he had to work to

support them, at the age of 9 his mother died, at 22 he lost his job as a store clerk, he wanted to go to law school but his education wasn't good enough, at 23 he went into debt to become a partner in a small store, at 26 his business partner died leaving him with a huge debt that took years to repay, at 28 after dating a girl for 4 years he asked her to marry him but she said "no", at 37 on his 3rd try he was elected to congress, but 2 years later he failed to be reelected, at 41 his 4-year-old son died, at 45 he ran for the senate and lost, at 47 he failed as the vice-presidential candidate, at 49 he ran for the senate again and lost, and at 51 he was elected president of the United States... his name was Abraham Lincoln (pic of Abraham Lincoln). He had big dreams and the courage to pursue them.



Ever felt like you have heard "No" or "you can't" so much that you started believing it? These words can make such a difference in our lives. Abe didn't let loss or failure stand in the way and we don't have to sit back and doubt ourselves either. James 1:6 says "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." (NIV) This is how we overcome. This is how God makes our mess beautiful!

So, what does the Bible have to say about our messes and God making them beautiful. Well, tonight we will examine the voices inside of your head. What?

II. Which Voices Am I Listening To?

a. The Voices In My Head

- i. This may sound like a weird question but do you have feel like you hear voices in your head? The movie Inside Out (2015) helped us to understand a little better. Here's an example of how those voices in our heads can disagree and argue sometimes:

Video = "Pixar Inside Out - A Family Dinner Scene" (3:20)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cjgdiy_SGjA

- ii. Obviously we know there are not little cartoon characters living inside of our brains (at least, I don't think there are), but there are two voices speaking to us constantly.

b. The Two Voices Of Proverbs

Proverbs 9:4 & 16 = "Come in with me," she urges the simple. To those who lack good judgment, she says." (NLT)

- i. Wisdom and Folly take on human voices throughout the book of Proverbs = both are calling you (their principles are both personified)
- ii. What are they saying?

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1. Wisdom's promise = everlasting blessing
2. Folly's promise = a moment of pleasure
- iii. Who is speaking in these verses? Both = Wisdom in v.4 & Folly in v.16 (they are saying the same thing)
- iv. Only difference... your response to them

III. How Will I Respond?

a. It Is All Up To You

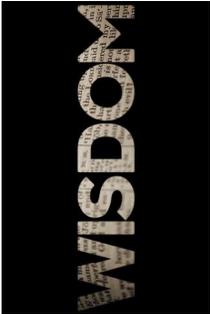
- i. We all are hearing a lot of voices all the time... from parents at home to teachers at school to coaches or choir directors to friends to social media to TV, etc
- ii. No matter whose voice (in person, online, or in your head), it all comes down to you...
- iii. Every choice you make is a response to these competing voices (wisdom or stupidity)
- iv. BTW = the NIV says "to those who have no sense" (don't let that be you!)
 1. Wisdom is like a spouse = a permanent partner who will always support you and do what's best for you
 2. Folly is like a prostitute = the promise is enticing but the result is brief and disappointing

b. Some Wisdom About Wisdom

- i. "Whose voice do you hear? Wisdom isn't flashy, rarely impressed, and never demands. Folly is brash, showy, and frequently pushy. She says you were put here to have a blast. Wisdom disagrees: You were put here to have – and to be – a blessing. Can you tell the difference?" (Chris Tiegreen)
- ii. "Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it." (J.I. Packer, Knowing God)
- iii. "Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have preferred to talk." (Doug Larson)

c. Let God Make Something Beautiful Of Your Mess

- i. Yes, life is messy but God is still in control!
- ii. Do you believe that? Will you listen to and respond with wisdom in your life tonight?
- iii. It's all riding on your ability to hear!
 1. Regardless of the voices in your head, listen to the voice of your Good Shepherd = "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27, NIV)



Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Read: = "Come in with me," she urges the simple. To those who lack good judgment, she says." (Proverbs 9:4 & 16, NLT)

Review: Tonight we began our new 3-week series about seeing God's message in our messes, seeing God's beauty in our brokenness, seeing God's purpose in our pain. We all have voices competing in our minds, which one will we listen to?

React: Between these two voices from Proverbs (Wisdom and Folly), which do you think you have been listening to more often? How can you trust God more to bring beauty from your "messy" life?

Leader's Notes:



Part 1: The Voices In My Head

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, November 7, 2018

I. What's So _____ About My Mess?

a. Life Is _____

- The bad news and the good news

b. _____ Is Beautiful

- Persevere and believe!

II. Which Voices Am I _____ To?

a. The _____ In My Head

Video = "Pixar Inside Out - A Family Dinner Scene" (3:20)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cjqdiy_SGjA

b. The Two Voices Of _____

Proverbs 9:4 & 16 = "Come in with me," she urges the simple.
 To those who lack good judgment, she says." (NLT)

- _____ and _____
- The only difference = your response to them

III. How Will I _____?

a. It Is All Up To _____

- Every choice you make is a response to these competing voices (wisdom or stupidity)
- Wisdom is like a _____
- Folly is like a _____

b. Some _____ About _____

- "Whose voice do you hear? Wisdom isn't flashy, rarely impressed, and never demands. Folly is brash, showy, and frequently pushy. She says you were put here to have a blast. Wisdom disagrees: You were put here to have – and to be – a blessing. Can you tell the difference?" (Chris Tiegreen)

c. Let God Make Something Beautiful Of Your _____

- It's all riding on your ability to hear!
- **John 10:27**

