
We That Are Strong (Pick Them Up, Warm Them Up, Back Them Up)

The Spiritual Connection

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Sermon: The Spiritual Connection: We That Are Strong (Pick Them Up, Warm Them Up, Back Them Up)

Lesson Text

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (KJV)⁹ Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. ¹⁰ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up. ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*? ¹² And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Romans 15:1–3 (KJV)¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification. ³ For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

Introduction

The Spiritual Battle: Ephesians 6:¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

- *Principalities* are the Territorial Demons (The Generals) – We must stand our ground!
- *Powers* are the Personal Attack Demons (The Foot soldiers) – Use your power!
- *Rulers of the Darkness* are the Demons of Temptations – Let God lead you!
- *Spiritual Wickedness* are the Demons assigned to Religion. – Trust and wait on the Lord!

I was going to conclude this series with last week’s message, but the Lord had me to revisit why we are really in each other’s lives at a spiritual level or connection.

In the book “His Needs, Her Needs” by Willard Harley, he speaks to fact that we all have a core set of needs (Affection, Sexual Fulfillment, Conversation, Recreation, Honesty & Openness, Attractive Spouse, Financial Support, Domestic Support, Family Commitment, and Admiration.

He goes on to say that when we fail to meet each other’s needs, it says that we either have a “Failure to Care” or we have a “Failure to Protect.” The first one says, “You’re no longer making me happy;” the latter says, “You’re making me unhappy.”

His thesis is that we all have an obligation and responsibility to each meet each other’s needs.

But we can become so fixated on happiness that we forget the true purpose of a relationship.

Genesis 2: ¹⁵ And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. ¹⁸ And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an ***help meet*** for him.

“Help Meet” here means Helper (not “Happier”)!

The purpose of marriage is not for happiness; the purpose of a job or career is not for fulfillment; and the purpose of a church or ministry is not for recognition.

Romans 15: ¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification. ³ For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

- Romans 15: (GNB)**Please Others, Not Yourself** 15 We who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak to carry their burdens. We should not please ourselves. ² Instead, we should all please our brothers and sisters for their own good, in order to build them up in the faith. ³ For Christ did not please himself. Instead, as the scripture says, “The insults which are hurled at you have fallen on me.”
- We are not here to make each other happy; we are here to help carry each other’s burdens: to “Help Meet,” to help each other with our cares, struggles, and the demons we are fighting.

Matthew 20: ²⁵ But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, **Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. ²⁶ But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; ²⁷ And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: ²⁸ Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

- The purpose of one being in a marriage, ministry, or career is not for happiness, recognition, or fulfillment, but to serve others during their time of weakness and failure.

We have to stop living our lives as victims of another person’s failures and weaknesses, because ultimately only God can supply all our needs. He is the only one that can truly be a very present help in the time of trouble.

Our job and responsibility is then to be strong so that we can help those that are weak!

Series and Sermon: The Spiritual Connection: We That Are Strong (Pick Them Up, Warm Them Up, Back Them Up)

“Strong enough to pick them up, Hot enough to heat them up, Bad enough to back them up”

I. Strong Enough To Pick Them Up

Ecclesiastes 4: ⁹ Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. ¹⁰ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up.

One of the first things we have to do in our connections with those that we are connected with is to be strong enough to pick them up when they fall.

People fall (have infirmities) for various reasons; they make mistakes or misjudgments, they get deceived or betrayed, or they simply just become too weak to stand.

- Born with infirmities: John 9: ² And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?
- Live with infirmities: John 5: ⁵ And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.
- Fall into infirmities: Galatians 6: ¹ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

It doesn't matter how they got there; it's our job to help them get out of there!

“But I'm tired of being the strong one, always picking them up!” “When do I get my pick-up!”

“I know you can do bad all by yourself!” **But you shouldn't!**

Ecclesiastes 4: ¹⁰ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: **but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.**

ILLUSTRATION: One person always picking up another. Eventually they get tired and leave. Then they fall!

If God has made you strong, get out of your emotions and be strong.

Ephesians 4: ¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

“But how long do we have to be strong?”

Ephesians 4: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

“Stop complaining about being weak and go pick somebody up! God made you strong!”

II. Hot Enough To Warm Them Up

Ecclesiastes 4: ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone?*

Each of our bodies are little heaters, generating heat on average of about 98.6°F (37°C). But if left alone in the cold, we can freeze to death. However, together, we can keep each other warm.

Now the warmth here in our lesson text can be a metaphor for encouragement!

Life can be very cold, cruel, isolating, and discouraging. You can be married, but still feel alone. You can be very productive on your job, but still feel unappreciated. You can be very useful in your ministry, but still feel unnecessary.

Sometimes it's because of people who can be hateful, spiteful, deceitful, or just wicked. Sometimes it's because of life that can be cruel, unforgiving, unfair, or just intolerable.

Friends betray us, leaders deceive us, and life hurts us and we lose our passion, become discouraged, and eventually isolate ourselves and become cold.

Matthew 24: ¹² **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

Most of us are familiar with the famous words of encouragement from the prophet Jeremiah: Jeremiah 29: ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

But what some of us may not know is that we almost didn't get that word of encouragement. Why? Because Jeremiah got in his emotions and became discouraged.

Jeremiah 20: ⁷ O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. ⁸ For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. ⁹ Then I said, **I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name.**

"I am mocked every day, people are laughing at me, I am a joke for speaking your Word!"

But Jeremiah came to himself and realized that he didn't need the affirmation and validation of others to encourage him; he had a supernatural heater within him!

Jeremiah 20: ⁹... **But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones,** and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

"Stop complaining about being Cold and go warm somebody up! God made you hot!"

III. Bad Enough To Back Them Up

Ecclesiastes 4: ¹² And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- God made me strong enough to pick them up
- God made me hot enough to warm them up
- God made me bad enough to back them up

The standard definition of "Bad:" Of poor quality or a low standard. Not such as to be hoped for or desired; unpleasant or unwelcome. Disagreeable, unpleasant, injurious, or harmful!

But dating back to the 19th century, people began to use it as a slang word to mean the opposite. So, when they would say something is bad, it meant that it was good; actually, better than good!

The bible says that "God is Good!" But somebody realized that God has been so good to them over and over again that they copied the slang and they wrote a song about it:

- "Lord you are good, you've been so good, Lord you are good, **you've been better than good,** I can't thank you enough, I owe you my life, you've been so good to me!"

- “You’ve been Better Than Good”-- In other words, God you are “Bad!”

When I get into a fight, I don’t just want someone who’s good, I want someone who’s better than good, someone who’s “Bad!”

Too many people complain about having to fight, “All My Life I Had To Fight!” Well then you should be better than good at fighting, you should be “Bad!”

Michael Jackson song a song years ago called “Bad”

- Ah, your butt is mine, gon' tell you right, ah
Just show your face in broad daylight, ah
I'm tellin' you on who I feel, ah
Gonna hurt your mind, don't shoot to kill.
- Because I'm bad, I'm bad, shamone
You know I'm bad, I'm bad
You know it (really, really bad)
Who's bad?

“Stop complaining about your fights, and just get better than good (Who’s Bad?). Just complaining about your haters, and just get better than good (Who’s Bad?). Stop complaining about your struggle, and just get better than good (Who’s Bad?)”

Deuteronomy 32: ³⁰ How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Matthew 18: ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18: ¹⁸ Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: We That Are Strong (Pick Them Up, Warm Them Up, Back Them Up))

Lesson Text

- Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, Romans 15:1–3

Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *Strong Enough To Pick Them Up*
- II. *Hot Enough To Warm Them Up*
- III. *Bad Enough To Back Them Up*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. What is your favorite part of the fall season?
2. Now that the last quarter of 2022 is here, how do you plan to finish the year strong?

II. Into the Bible

1. Read Acts 15:36-41. a) What was the dispute between Paul and Barnabas? b) Who do you think was right, Paul or Barnabas? (Use the sermon to support your answer)
2. Read Romans 14:1-2; 16-21. a) Why weren't the ones who ate the most restrictive diet (only ate vegetables) the strong ones? b) What does Paul instruct the believers to do as to their different opinions about eating meat? c) Today, believers are not divided over whether to eat meat, but what are some similar issues now about which some believers believe one thing while others believe differently?

III. Life Application

1. Have you ever experienced any hesitation in helping others, especially if you are experiencing extreme warfare yourself? How did you overcome this hesitation?
2. Share with your growth group how making spiritual connections with them has helped you in growing closer and in growing deeper. Has meeting in person made any difference?