

Me And My Big Mouth Series
Right Where You Want 'Em
05/16/20
NN & SFK Campus

Opening

-Business Meeting tonight...

- Plan to attend...
- We'll do Q&A in the chat
- This is an important meeting so if you call City Life, you don't want to miss it...

-What an amazing series...

- Pastor Justin, Steve, Sharon...
- Vanessa last week with Mother's Day...
- So many gifted teachers here at City Life!

-Andy Stanley quote...

What goes around comes around. The powerless often find themselves in a position of power and the people who hurt them may someday need them.

When they have those people right where they want'em, what they say will say as much about them as anything else. If our words are stones, will we choose to throw them or use them to pave a way forward?

Introduction

-James 3:7-8 (NLT)

-Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

-Did James and Paul forget to consult one another before they wrote this? Oh wait, the Holy Spirit is the author, so did the Holy Spirit change His mind? Is He mistaken, is He contradicting Himself?

-(tell story of getting my mouth washed out with soap...should have showed Mom James 3:7-8)

-Let's remember, we always understand the Bible in light of itself, if our conclusion leads to a contradiction, the problem is with our conclusion, not Scripture.

-James 3:7-8 is NOT saying give up on controlling the tongue. He is saying that **if you want to change what you say, you must first change who you are!**

-And Ephesians 4:29 is reminding us that WHEN we change who we are, we can now control what comes out of our mouths

-Matthew 12:34

-Proverbs 10:11

-Luke 6:45

-So let's look at a story in the Old Testament that illustrates how God often jump starts our journey of change. **Remember, if you want to change what you say, you must first change who you are.**

Betrayed

-Genesis 37:5-11

- **Arrogant**
- **Self-aggrandizing**
- **Impetuous**
- **Intolerable**
- **Entitled**

-Joseph knew he was gifted by God with dreams and that he was his father's favorite son (Jacob needed GKGW). But instead of using those gifts and his status to serve others, he used it to boast of himself and belittle others!!!

-Rest of chapter 37...

- His brothers scheme to kill him
- Reuben convinces them to put him in a well
- Before Reuben can rescue him, sold into slavery
- All lie to Jacob that Joseph was killed by a wild animal

-History Channel: Forged In Fire...if you are going to shape steel, it needs to be heated to temperatures between 1500 and 2000 degrees!

-God used the betrayal of Joseph's brothers to turn up the heat in his life. God loved him enough to allow him to suffer so his character could be formed!

-God shapes our character through hardship to prepare us for some moment in our future where our words will either be stones we throw in retribution OR become stones we throw to build a road to lead to our destiny.

Accused

-Genesis 39:8-9

-I believe God gives us this story because He wants us to see the change that is already taking place in Joseph's life!

-What do you think the young man who was entitled and impetuous would have done with the advances of this woman? I think the answer is clear. He would have become an adulterer.

-But now, the young man who has been betrayed knows the sting of such pain and instead of becoming an adulterer, we begin to see him as a man of character.

-The greater the destiny, the hotter the forge.

-Have you ever been accused of something that you didn't do?

- Joseph doesn't say, well I just should have slept with her!

- ***We do right because of who we are, not the outcome!***

-God shapes our character through hardship to prepare us for some moment in our future where our words will either be stones we throw in retribution OR become stones we throw to build a road to lead to our destiny.

Forgotten

-Genesis 39:19-23

-Just because we feel forgotten by everyone else, we are never forgotten by God! When God is turning up the heat, those aren't the moments when we are being forgotten, those are actually the moments we are at the center of His attention!!!

-God's forgotten are NEVER forgotten!!!!

-And then comes Joseph's next temptation...

Genesis 40:5-8

-What do you think the young man who was arrogant and self-aggrandizing would have done with his God given gift to interpret dreams? I think the answer is clear. He would have become a self-promoter.

-He doesn't say, "It's my business." He says, "It's God's business."

-Being accused of something we did not do prepares our character so we do not take credit for something we should not claim.

-God shapes our character through hardship to prepare us for some moment in our future where our words will either be stones we throw in retribution OR become stones we throw to build a road to lead to our destiny.

The Moment

-(explain Josephs' new status...)

-(explain Joseph's brothers arrive in Egypt...)

-(Genesis 45:1-8)

-Being betrayed, accused, and forgotten CAN leave us embittered...OR:

- ...keeps us from becoming a betrayer.
- ...keeps us from taking credit.
- ...keeps us from retribution.

-Being forgotten also creates in us an incredible, irresistible desire for reconciliation.

-John 1:10-12

-(preach through this text)

Close

-This teaching tonight is by no means intended to say that we should give up our fight against injustice. I'm not saying that you should accept being betrayed, accused, and forgotten without standing up for yourself or others.

-...my point tonight is that God's love isn't just comforting, it's also dangerous. He is willing to lead us into hardship, to turn up the heat, to shape our character.

...to prepare us for some moment in our future where our words will either be stones we throw in retribution OR become stones we throw to build a road to lead to our destiny.

-Psalm 19:14

...there is a reason these two are paired together...

-If we ever hope to change what we say, it starts with changing who we are.

Break

-Hey, don't go anywhere...be back in 5!!!!

- With the Governor allowing 50% capacity, we want to tell you our plan...
- And I want to share some news with you about a significant change at City Life

