

Called to Belong

Power to build & resurrect relationships

How to experience **Fatherly** Care in a Troubled world – look at Jesus
Simple – look at Jesus – exp Father

A. SEE HIM IN HIS GREAT GIVING

John 3:16

Gave? – so loved Giving to get – main cause of rel problem

Generous to friends – disappoint - frust

Giving out of love – never frust – pleasure in the act of giving

Look to **God** not man for satis – deepest need

James 5:7-8

So be patient, brethren, [as you wait] till the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits expectantly for the precious harvest from the land. [See how] he keeps up his patient [vigil] over it until it receives the early and late rains. AMP

Grace – God give rain – environment – opportunity- Hidden wealth

B. SEE HIM IN HIS GREAT GLORY

See Him in his **glory**; exp care (heavenly miracle power)

see glory of Jesus – exp care of Father

Look at the 3 passages – Luk 9 27 Mk 9 Matt 17

Ephesians 1:6

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Listen to him – focus HIM and grace

Not formula; Metd: human prin: 7 Keys

It is a **PERSON**

Focus – how well you kept the prin or laws – reduced to **focussing** on human effort – **restrict** your achievement to the level of your human ability

Mark 9:14

14 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

Focus on **LAW** – prin – miss the miracle

It's the truth that sets us free Robbed of **immed** breakthrough - argument over the **law**

Got to do this – that – didn't sow enough, pray, fast ...

Ephesians 3:8

8 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace(privilege, favour) was given me: to preach (GK: proclaim the good news) to the Gentiles the unsearchable(inexhaustible, boundless, incalculable) riches of Christ.

Focus on the good news – not negative news

26 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently - the boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead.

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

Seems to get **worst** – just the dying grasp of defeated foe – last burst of fire

C. SEE HIM IN HIS RESURRECTION POWER

Eph. 1:19-20 How tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God ... the same power demonstrated when Christ was raised from the dead." (Ph)

Most **amazing** point in hist – whether believer or non – every time – ready paper – write diary – ack – Jesus **centre** of hist - **HIST** divided bef Christ or after

Why such a **big deal** – so impt – what has it to do with me – TODAY!

Eph – a lot!

Same power – used on Day of R – available for you

Power in your **rel** – home – friends

3 By wisdom a house is built All **rel** prob boil down to 3 keys **root** prob:

You have problem in accepting **differences**

You have problem - feel your **need** not met

Give big birthday gift to another You have problem – you struggling w **hurts**

Peo say – I don't know how to meditate – we do – everytime we **upset** – we are meditating on what bad thing had happen

Feel **powerless** – to change it – hopeless

Good news – power **greater** than nuclear energy is available

One guy exp res power – the father in the parable ...

Luke 15:24 For this son of mine was **DEAD** and is **ALIVE** again; he was lost and is found.

I. Power to enjoy life in the midst of hurts

Psalms 23:5

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You

anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

How can we enjoy life to the fullest despite what the enemies are trying to do?

Fat in midst of enemy – what they say or do

Oil – God honours, God beautifies – attractive

Cup overflow – great abundance Two **realities** – tremendously help – build rel

- Your friends are imperf - you are not that great either

Two imperf peo come together – frictions – hurts – **intentionally** or not

Proverbs 21:19

19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.

– qua chee – if **nagging** - keep **focusing** on **negative** - If keep **digging**

– little hurts – strain any rel

Eph. 4:31 Let there be no more **bitter resentment or anger**, no more shouting or slander, and let there be **no bad feelings** of any kind among you." (Ph)

Some – may - made **hurt badly** – months or years ago

If keep hold on – **kill** the rel You become **unpleasable**

– no matter how nice, kind, romantic, gentle – back of mind.

Did this – becos – he's feeling **guilty** If you don't let go, you can't **enjoy** the present

What happen if we don't let go the bitterness?

Job 18:4

4 You who tear yourself to **pieces** in your anger ...

You are only hurting **yourself** with your anger – and the **people** that you **love**

Make matter worst – now **passing** pain to your husband or your wife or your children.

Straits Times S'pore – Jul 3 08

Oversea Student – jailed 16 yrs – 16 strokes – stabbing girl's father and 2 maids. Sad: great fut – scholarship student – studying marine engineering.

Psychologist – hostile feeling to alcoholic father – that attack mum. Hostility to father figures – tho dad has died

Yes – reason to hate – but if not dealt with only – destroy ourselves (MUM, everything)

Always live w guilt – stabbing innocent people – not able to care widow mum – he loves

Foolish - allowing – him continue – even – not around – dad already died

Some of you have been hurt in the past -- all of us have been hurt in the past -- but some of you are continuing to allow people from your past to hurt you in the present even though they're not around any more and that's dumb! Let it go! Paul says, Get rid of it! Get rid of bitterness.

WHO? – girl/boy – spouse – staff – parent – teacher
How deal with hurt

Romans 4:25

25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Col. 3:13 Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. LB

How can we release our anger with God's power?

Want to forgive others – realise how much you have been forgiven

Forgiven much love much

No one will ever hurt me more than I've hurt the Lord. No one will ever disappoint me more than I've disappointed God.

Sometimes problem: – hard time forgiving others – you don't feel you have

not been completely forgiven

Patience – husb – drunk (Nebo also 1 yr – womanise

– Holy Spirit – and tolerate – stand up to it

Know – when to tolerate – when to make a stand – make a point

Once in a long while

Genesis 50:15-21

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I BEG you to forgive your brothers the sins.' When their message came to him, Joseph wept. 18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your SLAVES," they said.

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid.

Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Bondage to guilt – reduce us to slaves

21 So then, don't be AFRAID. I will PROVIDE for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Power to transform lives

Luke 15:15-18

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

18 I will arise and go to my father,

...

What is the reason for the son's transformation?

and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. NKJV

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

Come to sense? Pig sty?

Adversities? Some bitter some better!

Generosity of his father – HOW

MANY

Realise he is still SON

(righteous despite of our sins)

No more taste for filth – I will arise

Whenever we are tempted to sin (surf for filth in the net, etc), we

realise – sons – no pigs - got to give in to animal instincts

Greatest power for change and blessings: God's overflowing grace and love and our position as sons.

2. Power of unshakeable hope

Luke 15:13-24

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth (wasted his substance KJV) in wild living.

Wasted himself in wild living

Found himself in a pig sty

God hates sins - WHY? – oh – his glory undermined – not the only reason

He not like us – angry when kids sinned – because we lost face - embarrassed

Sometimes, we are angry when our kids sinned because we lost our face

Does God hate sin because he lost his face, his name dishonoured? No

He knows sin will destroy us – sexual sins – always destroy: sense of respect, rel(pre ma sex - affect your ma), health(shorten your life) – sin against BODY

See what sins did – on Jesus on cross
Have you – wonder why – son chose evil – such a good father

Why do kids of godly parents also go astray?

Adam, Noah, Samuel, Daniel

Even if perfect parent – kids still rebel

Why do friends still disappoint us when we do the right thing?

Ans: born in sin

– more impt – not why - what to do

i. You cannot control people's choice

I want go – Do you think father didn't know – going to waste his life

– sure gave best advice

Why the father let son go ANS – can't control people's choice

IMPORTANT: not take up false guilt –

Realise – we are NOT the only influ – friends – teachers - make choices

What are some of the influences that are beyond our control and responsibility?

Parental responsibility ends where parental control ends.

ii. You let them go.

Find power struggle from young – want be own boss – do own thing

Father let him go becous he knows - the tighter you hold on – more kids determine to go

Not dependency but interdependence

I released them – hoping for change

but – they still same

How to let go with joy?

Don't – hinge your happiness – to the day he return & changed – hinge your happiness – fact - doing right thing

God's eye – success

Enjoy – God's greater purpose
NOW – eat in the midst of enemy – oil – cup overflow!

But if you have sincerely tried your best

Did all the numbers – good wife – prayed – Hosea – hedge of thorns – woo

But that jerk couldn't recog your effort
That is his problem

in God's eyes – you are a
success and obj of his love
Move on with God's **eternal**
purpose in your life
don't make it your supreme
goal
– for husb to return
Find your purpose now – and
in the LORD

51 Joseph named his
firstborn

iii. Realise that for some the
only way to learn is **pain**
- sch of hard knocks
Pig sty – father know – I
am sure: every news – cut
and break **heart**
Notice – he didn't come
immed – Zoro – superman
– **worst** can do – feed him
How do we jump to our
kids' rescue most of the
time?

Let him bear **consequence**
– impt lesson to learn in life

iv. Never give up **hope**.
Luke 15

20 So he got up and went to
his father. "But while he was still
a long way off, his father saw him
and was filled with compassion
for him; he ran to his son, threw
his arms around him and kissed
him.

Amazing – while **long** way
off – Father **saw**.

How the father was able
to see the son coming
from a long way off?

Shows the father eyes on
horizon - has always kept
his hope HIGH - **seeing** him
well

World – sinned - **hopeless**

–
Bible: **see** what God can
do – **despite** – CHO – Fred
– cell leader

21 "The son said to him,
"Father, I have sinned against
heaven and against you. I am no

longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants,
'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on
him. Put a ring on his finger and
sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it.
Let's have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was **dead**
and is **alive** again; he was lost and is
found.

Come home **expect** a piece of
bread – slap – slave

Kisses - Best **robe**

all paid by the father – his effort fail

Ring – **Shoe** – sonship not slaves

Treated as a prince again

Fatten calf – abundance

Did the only thing – come back

As long as come back – nothing
lost – **restored** 7 times – if
people – 7fold better qualities

Grace enables us to receive the
most **unexpected**