

HOPE BEYOND HEADLINES, PT.2

SERMON OUTLINE

Week 1 Review:

Get Part 1 at: standrewsky.org/?page_id=295&sermon_id=424 or order a CD using a communication card.

Introduction

• Our natural (unspiritual) way is to sin in response to being sinned against. We don't get mad, we get even and then some.

Genesis 4:23 (NLT) – (Lamech) “... hear my voice; listen to me, you wives of Lamech. I have killed a man who attacked me, a young man (lit., a youth or a boy) who wounded (lit., bruised) me. (See James 1:20.)

“Uncannily, the Bible, in Numbers 14:18, appears to corroborate the claims of modern science—or vice versa—that the sins, iniquities, or consequences (depending on which translation you read) of the parents can affect the children up to the third and fourth generations.”

– Mark Wolynn, “It Didn't Start with You: How Inherited Family Trauma Shapes Who We Are and How to End the Cycle”

Genesis 2:17 – (The Lord God) “...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Where to find power to be agents of hope...

1. In the rear view mirror (vss. 11-12)

Eph. 2:11-12 – 11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men) – 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

• Godless, Christless, stateless, friendless, hopeless

Eph. 2:13 –... (you) were far away...

2. At the foot of the cross (vss. 13-18)

Eph. 2:13-18 – 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. (See Leviticus 17:11.) 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far

away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Leviticus 17:11 – “... the life of a creature is in the blood ... it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.”

3. In the context of a supernaturally-connected community (vss. 19-22)

Citizens (19) → Family (19) → God's dwelling place (22)

Eph. 2:19-22 – 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Purposeful reflecting...

• Continue the “silence experiment” daily. Ask the Lord to speak, then spend five minutes in silence. (Use a timer!) Notice what you notice (maybe take notes).

Experience

• What struck you as personally significant in the message? How might God be speaking to you through that?

• The Jews and Gentiles both needed to hear the message of “peace” from Jesus. This was obviously true for the Gentiles because of their pagan lifestyles; it was less obvious for the Jews because they were very religious. Does this have any relevance for today's church? What reactions surface as you think about this? Talk to God about anything you notice.

Transform

• What, if any, obstacles keep you from personal involvement 1) in Christian community or 2) in serving others who are far from God? Talk to God about these obstacles in prayer and tell Him what you need from Him to change.

• What does God want you to do in response to this message?

Share

• Quickly list the positive changes God has brought about in your life or things He's spared you. When finished, take time to thank God for each one. (Find somebody with whom to share what you recalled. If you're doing this in a group, share it in the group.)

• Could someone you know help you move forward with any specific God action wants you to take? Share what's on your heart with that person.

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