

Summer Soul Searching

"Taking Control"

July 8, 2018

Equipping Verses Enabling Difficult People

1. We give them what they need rather than what they want.

Acts 3: 3-7 - *When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.*

Temptation:

It is easier for us to pacify them than to confront them.

2. We say the difficult "no" rather than the easy "yes".

Mark 1: 35-37 – *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

³⁶ *Simon and his companions went to look for him,³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"*

Temptation:

We spend so much time taking care of everyone else's needs while we have become empty, exhausted and bitter.

3. We are a resource for better behavior rather than a rescuer from the consequences of bad behavior.

Galatians 6: 7-8 – *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

Luke 15: 11-13 - *Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.*

Temptation:

We release people from dealing with the negative consequences of their unproductive behavior and thereby rob them of important learning.

4. We are careful not to act superior, for we also are difficult.

Psalm 70: 5 - *But as for me, I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; LORD, do not delay.*

Temptation:

We stop looking at people who need love as we need love and start seeing them as projects.