

SERMON NOTES

Dr. David A. Renwick -- January 24, 2010

Probing Questions IV: Redemption – Can I really Change?

Motivation and Possibility of Change

A New Low . . . challenging our strength

- Confession of Weakness/Need: after either failure OR success

A New High (often a change in environment, challenging our old vision)

- Environment -- Mission Trip
- Teaching/Knowledge/Pattern -- Financial Peace; Counseling
- Copernican Revolution (Earth or Sun at center?)

A Belief that Change is Possible

- People/Christ (belonging, relationship, team, support)
- Power/Spirit (experience)
- Plan / God's Word (step by step, manageable, doable)

The 12 Steps

- Step 1 - We admitted we were powerless over our addiction - that our lives had become unmanageable
- Step 2 - Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity
- Step 3 - Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God
- Step 4 - Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves
- Step 5 - Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs
- Step 6 - Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character
- Step 7 - Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings
- Step 8 - Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all
- Step 9 - Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others
- Step 10 - Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it
- Step 11 - Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out
- Step 12 - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs

Books:

Half-Time: Changing your Game Plan from Success to Significance by Bob Buford

Second Calling: Passion and Purpose for the Rest of Your Life, by Dale Hanson Bourke

Scriptures

GOD

Isaiah 50:2 Is my hand shortened, that it cannot **redeem**?

Psalms 34:22 The LORD **redeems** the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be *condemned*.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my **redeemer**.

Isaiah 48:17 Thus says your **Redeemer**: I am the LORD your God, who *teaches you for your own good, who leads you* in the way you should go.

GOD'S ACTION WITH ISRAEL

Psalms 25:22 **Redeem** Israel, O God, out of all its troubles.

Jeremiah 31:11 For the LORD has **ransomed** Jacob, and has **redeemed** him *from hands too strong for him*.

Ruth 4:6 (Boaz' action for Ruth)

Luke 2:38 (Anna) came, and began to praise God and to speak about the baby (Jesus) to all looking for the **redemption** of Jerusalem.

COSTLY

Numbers 35:31 you shall accept no **ransom** for the life of a murderer

JESUS' COSTLY ACTION FOR ALL OF US

Matthew 20:28 . . . just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a **ransom** for many. (1Tim 2:6 *for all*)

Revelation 5:9 (Jesus) **ransomed** for God saints *from every tribe and language and people and nation*.

1 Peter 1:18 you were **ransomed** from the *fruitless ways* inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold,

Romans 3:24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus,

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

Hebrews 9:12 entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of (animals), but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal **redemption**.

CLEAR IN THE END

Job 19:25 I know my **Redeemer** lives - *at the last* he will stand on the earth

Isaiah 54:8 for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love *I will have* compassion on you, says the LORD, your **Redeemer**.

Romans 8:23 and not only the *creation*, but *we ourselves*, who have the first fruits of the Spirit . . . wait for adoption, the **redemption** of *our bodies*.

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of **redemption**.