

BROKEN BRIDGES
Loosening Your Grip VIII
Luke 6:27-38

INTRODUCTION

- A. New Yorker, cartoon – bridge (8 ton limit), truck (8 tons), blue bird lands on truck – bridge collapses and truck plunges into river.
 - 1. My neighbor is in his 5th week of giving me a hard time about the rotten wood in the fence. I'm not sure how much more I can take.
 - 2. The junior high health teacher keeps adding questionable material to my son's class. I've got to do something soon.
 - 3. I've said all the right words to my friend's grieving over a tragic death, but I sense rejection and ineffectiveness.
- B. Relationships that break seem to have no "cure."
- C. Luke 6:27-38, prescription to renew broken relationship.
 - 1. We want to water down the words of Jesus.
 - a. Love your enemies.
 - b. Do good to those who hate you.
 - c. Bless those who say bad things about you.
 - d. Offer the other cheek.
 - e. Be merciful.
 - f. Don't judge.
 - g. Don't condemn.
 - h. Forgive.
 - 2. Instructions to have a grace-filled life.
 - a. Not to receive grace.
 - b. Not to be saved.
 - 3. It is how we live our lives because we are saved!
 - a. It shows a higher quality of life (in Christ!).
 - 4. ***Sidenote:*** Broadens our relationships.
 - a. Takes us from the same friends and family.
 - b. Lets us meet new folks and form new relationships.

I. PRACTICE KINDNESS. Luke 6:27-28

- A. The First Treatment for Broken Relationships.
 - 1. Love your enemies.
 - 2. Do good to those who hate you.
 - 3. Bless those who curse you.
 - 4. Pray for those who mistreat you.
- B. A Kindness that Heals Broken Relationships.
 - 1. Scott Davidson, a boy on paper route.
 - a. For some reason, he didn't like me.
 - b. Beat me up.
 - c. Broken leg – Mom sent me to visit him.
 - 2. Greatest antidote for broken relations is love, kindness.

II. FORGIVE. Luke 6:37

- A. Jesus' Prescription.
 - 1. Do not judge, and you will not be judged.
 - 2. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.
 - 3. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
- B. Forgiveness, Not a One Way Street.
 - 1. Healing begins with one person taking the first step.
 - 2. It takes two to complete the process. (Jesus on the cross.)

III. LET GOD BE IN CONTROL. Luke 6:29-34

- A. Not a Natural Tendency.
 - 1. First reaction, hit before the enemy hits us.
 - 2. Find the weak spot and take full advantage of it.
- B. Jesus Says to Try a Different Approach.
 - 1. Only when I give up control to God can I heal enough to be kind again.
 - 2. Only when I surrender the problem to Jesus can I see my way to forgive.
 - 3. Only when I let go can I get my life back.
 - 4. Only when I recognize my own ineffectiveness can I seek the power of God.
- C. Letting God Control.
 - 1. Put the other person ahead of you.
 - 2. Get in line first and let somebody else in front of you.
 - 3. Hand control over to God.

CLOSING

- A. Genesis 1:1-2 – God created order out of chaos.
 - 1. God formed the formless.
 - 2. God filled the empty.
 - 3. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, the Bible.
- B. Luke 6:35-38 – Reward by giving up control to God.
 - 1. Your reward will be great.
 - 2. You will be sons of the Most High.
 - 3. It will be given you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones:

This book called the Bible is the great manual of the soul, it is the textbook of life. Here is a book which really does answer the question of life. We have a problem and we begin to read... 'In the beginning God...' That is the bible. You see, the Bible never starts with man – it always starts with God. And the whole trouble with the modern world is that it starts with man and ends with man, and so it ends in confusion and chaos.