

Life Lessons – Making It Live

David Welsh | “It’s Déjà Vu, All Over Again” | Genesis 20 | February 19, 20, 2011

Faithless or Faithful?

What is the difference between being disowned and being faithless?

Disowning carries with it finality, whereas faithlessness is an occasional stumble. Do you occasionally stumble into sin? Are they usually the same sins? Do you regret these stumbles and ask God’s forgiveness? Do you repent? Really? Discuss: Repent means turn around, go a different direction, to never commit this sin again! **Discuss** how God remains faithful and will not permanently disown us even if we stumble again. If you are a child of God, He will not disown you.

Consistency

Are you a consistent Christian? Share what that means to you. Is it on Saturday? On the golf course? At work or school? Or, are you just a regular attendee at church on Sunday and live like a non-Christian the rest of the time? Do you play golf? What is the key to playing good golf? Consistency: practice, practice, practice. **Discuss** how being a consistent Christian requires practice, practice, practice; just like golf.

Fear and Uncertainty

Can you share a time when new circumstances challenged your faith in God?

Did you turn to your own solution and timing or did you trust in God? Why did Abraham repeat the same sin with Sarah and Abimelek that he had done with Sarah and Pharaoh? He rationalized that he was in a new situation and did not know what to expect from Abimelek, so he turned to his own solution instead of having faith in God to handle these circumstances. **Share** what you do when facing new circumstances. **Discuss** how God is able to handle all our fear and uncertainty.

Inconsistency

Have you ever made the same mistake twice? 50 times? 100 times? Even though warned by Jesus, Peter denied his Lord 3 times. Why? He was in a new situation, a new and dangerous environment and the inconsistency of his faith was revealed. Can you share a situation where you had the opportunity, even the need, to speak out for Christ but remained silent? **Discuss:** Fear and uncertainty in such circumstances reveals the inconsistencies of our hearts.

Forgiveness

Have you stumbled in sin and just hated yourself afterward? Did you ask for God’s forgiveness and promised God that it would never happen again? Did you forgive yourself? Did you forget it? No, because we cannot just forget. But when God forgives, the sin disappears from God’s mind without a trace as if it never happened. **Discuss:** Pardon must not only be granted, it must be accepted. **Share** how we might accept God’s pardon and move on as if that forgiven sin never happened.

Written by Ed Hooper