Blog 42

Lessons from the Exodus

1 John 2:15-16

Intro:

There is a villain in the shipping industry and it is called a barnacle.

A **barnacle** is a spineless animal that looks like a small circular white rock. You'll often find **barnacles** attached to the bottom of boats. They multiply quickly and can sink a boat.

Barnacles may have a small footprint, but their effect on global shipping is large.



Picture of barnacles on a ship.

When a ship’s hull gets coated with barnacles and other creatures, it uses more fuel. Eventually the ship must be hauled out of water and scraped clean, at an estimated cost of several billion dollars a year.

Here are 5 synonyms to the word barnacle when used to describe people:

1. Appendages
2. Bloodsuckers
3. Freeloaders
4. Hangers-on
5. Leeches

I posit that we as people gather/collect barnacles to our personage in our habits, views of the world and family relationships that drag us down and keep us from being what God would have us be.

My examples of human barnacles:

1. Bad habits
2. Vocabulary
3. TV and entertainment habits
4. Friends
5. Family problems
6. Value system
7. And more

What are your barnacles?

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A view from Exodus on a cause for barnacles:

In the Israelite’s journey across the desert, God gave this nation a set of commands and laws to help govern this new nation behavior and thinking. One of the major works is the decalogue found in Leviticus. A new national behavior was to be the Jubilee.

Jubilee:

Lev\_25:10, “And you shall make the fiftieth year holy, year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee to you, and you shall return each man to his possession, and you shall return each man to his family.”

Lev\_25:13, “In the year of this jubilee you shall return each man to his possession.”

Let me make the following observations on the jubilee as I see it.

1. This command was given before the Israelites had anything, or possessions to our knowledge, and no possessions of land. Land was the major economic bargaining chip. Land ownership was still in the future. In the beginning of the nation, it is noted that God made it clear to the nation that He owned all of the promised land.
2. This is not a command for “income equality,” but was to keep the material aspect in our life in proper perspective. (A friend of mine thought that the command was for income equality, which he opposed). Business and commerce are no more than a giant Monopoly game. The results and your value should not be measured by your possessions. We compete in an era and then at the end of our life it is over. And all people forget who won or lost.

If material accomplishment is the measure of a person, Jesus is a loser. Just ask the person in their grave for their perspective on worldly riches.

1. Jubilee is the only celebration the nation had that there is no recording of it ever being celebrated.
2. It is only mentioned in the decalogue and never again in the scriptures.

What can we learn?

1. Possessions can become your barnacles.
2. The “gain” in your life from the world should not be taken seriously or should be of any importance to who you are.
3. Your stature in society should not be determined by the “things you possess.”

Question: What implication does the jubilee have in our lives today?

1. Don’t let possessions become a “barnacle” in your life that impairs your ability and willingness to serve others.
2. Our friends and relationships should not be determined by possessions.
3. When my focus is on possessions, I have noticed that I tend to see, treat, agree/disagree with others from an agenda determined by their net worth or position.

We should see all people in need of a spiritual tuning or repositioning or encouragement, not what can I gain.

Observation: The heavier my barnacle load, the less I can deal with other people as a servant/and witness.

Application: Set about to reduce your barnacle load in your life by looking at how Jesus sees you and how he sees others.

Do you struggle with any of the below?

1. Bad habits
2. Vocabulary
3. TV and entertainment habits
4. Friends
5. Family problems
6. Value system
7. And more

Let me comment on some of these “barnacles”:

1. In my younger years I picked up bad habits. I was trying to become the person I wanted to be. One of my new habits was smoking. It took 13 years for me to break this habit. And only with the help of God’s power could I break out of this addition. It not only cost me lots of money but some health also. Do you have a physical habit you need to change or eliminate?
2. When I was a youth, I picked up cursing to enhance my macho image. This was reinforced when I worked in the oil fields. Remember we think with words and if our vocabulary is foul so will be our thinking. (Reference Blog 10, 2016.)

We think with words. The power of our thinking as Christians is the Holy Spirit, but He can only work with what you give Him, i.e. your knowledge of the Word and your vocabulary that you think with. When is the last time you added a word to your vocabulary? When is the last time you eliminated words from your vocabulary?

1. TV and entertainment habits. I know of no one who thinks they watch too little TV and who use the ratings on movies determine what they want to see. You should be a prude with what you watch and financially support.
2. Value system: What do I consider important to me (and my family)? My value system will determine my use of the time God gives me and the use of my resources. This usage of time and treasure is a great challenge in our lives. The Bible states only two things last forever: The Word and people. What are you investing in? What you value can become a barnacle.

Application?

Take an inventory of your life in these areas:

1. Your habits – eliminate those that take you away from God. Not only eliminate some, but add in one good habit for your growth and good life.
2. Your vocabulary – it’s a key your good thinking. Grade your word power and plan and implement your correction.
3. Your entertainment sources and types – don’t engage in anything where you wouldn’t take Jesus. Make the proper corrections.
4. Have a fellow brother grade you in these areas.