

Remnant Life Church
November 27, 2016
Choose Your Relationships Carefully
I Chronicles 18:28-19:3

- We need to be other people
- God said at the beginning of Adam it was not good for him to be alone (**Gen 2:18**)
 1. We were not created to be alone
 - Isolation is a form of punishment
 - Countless stories told of being on a “deserted island”
 - Everything from the Tom Hanks movie “Castaway” to “Gilligan’s Island”
- A major part of our lives as humans is centered around relationships
- We are unique in this as nothing else on the planet relies so much on relationships
 1. Animals certainly gather together in their species
 2. Common elements are drawn together
 3. But for us it is absolutely necessary and why right relationships are so important

READ – I Chron 18:28-19:3

- The books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles cover a time period of 521 years from 1107 to 586 BC during which Solomon dies and the kingdom is divided in 931
 1. The 2 tribes of the south (Judah and Benjamin – known as the nation of Judah)
 2. The remaining 10 tribes of the north (known as Israel)
- The books of I and II Chronicles overlap the books of Samuel and Kings emphasizing a different theme through roughly the same time period
 1. Samuel and Kings is from a prophetic perspective with an overriding message of judgment from man’s failings
 2. Chronicles is from a priestly perspective with an overriding message of hope from God’s faithfulness
 3. Much of this is due to the exact time they were written and what was going on
 - Samuel and Kings written shortly after the nation is taken into captivity by Babylon
 - Chronicles is written shortly after the return from captivity in 516
- Within the writings of 2 Chronicles and I Kings is the story of Jehoshaphat
 1. The 4th king of Judah following the split
 2. The great-great grandson of Solomon
 3. Kings of Judah
 - 344 years; 20 kings; only 8 were godly
 4. Kings of Israel
 - 207 years; 20 kings; every one of them was evil
 5. Jehoshaphat ruled for 25 years in Judah and was, for the most part, of godly king (**I Kings 22:42-43**)
 - A spiritual reawakening took place during his reign (**II Chron 17:7-9**)
 - He sought the guidance and wisdom of God (**17:4**)

- But Jehoshaphat made 3 major mistakes, having to do with relationships, that prevented him from walking in the full blessings of his ancestors David and Solomon
 1. He aligned himself with Ahab, King of Israel, through marriage by allowing his son Joram to marry Athaliah the daughter of Ahab (**II Chron 18:1**)
 1. Throughout the history of Israel there was no more evil and perverse king than Ahab
 2. Considered to be the most evil of all the evil kings of Israel
 - He married a pagan Phoenician princess by the name of Jezebel
 - She led Ahab and consequently Israel away from God
 - She was so wicked that her name has become synonymous with an evil woman
 3. Evil always surrounds itself with evil
 - When you associate with and embrace the wickedness of others you are also embracing all those who come with them
 - **Psa 84:10** - *Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*
 2. He joined with Ahab in fighting a war and was nearly killed
 - a. Ahab said I'll go disguised but you go in all the splendid robes of royalty (**2 Chron 18:28-29**)
 - b. **Prov 21:10** - *The wicked crave evil; their neighbors get no mercy from them.*
 - c. In other words: There is no honor among thieves
 - d. When you trust in the schemes and plans of the world you will be betrayed
 3. He made an alliance with the evil king Ahaziah the son of Ahab (**2 Chron 20:35**)
 - a. Create a fleet of trading ships
 - b. Because of the sinful agreement, God destroyed the ships before they sailed
 - c. Counting on the world to be your source of provision will never be fulfilling
- Jehoshaphat was a good king who allowed others to influence his life and it drew him away from God

Three main players in this account we can identify with:

1. Jehoshaphat – a man who wanted to do right by God but kept a foot in the world
 - a. **2 Chron 20** recounts his victory over a vast army through the power of God
 - b. Why was he given victory?
 - i. **2 Chron 20:18** - *Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.*
 - ii. The common thread throughout the OT – obey God and He will protect and prosper you; disobey Him and you will be defeated through your sin
 - c. What type of a man was Jehoshaphat? – he was at times a fool
 - i. **Prov 28:26** - *Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.*

- ii. Putting any relationship ahead of God is the plan of a fool
2. Ahab – the very personification of evil
 - a. His prophets told him that Baal would give him victory but they deceived him (2 Chron 18:5)
 - b. They told him what he wanted to hear knowing his wickedness
 - i. This is what is helping to drag down the United States today
 - ii. There is no wisdom in fools
 - iii. Anyone who claims there is no God is a fool (Psa 14:1)
 - c. God's judgment will prevail against wickedness
 - i. Ahab is not killed in glorious battle but by one lucky shot of an arrow (2 Chron 18:33)
 - ii. He dies a death of shame
 - d. Sin ultimately leads to death (Rom 6:23)
 3. Micaiah – the prophet of God who always and only spoke truth
 - a. Ahab (evil) hated this prophet (truth)
 - i. He and Jezebel also had problems with Elijah
 - ii. Evil will always rebel against truth
 - b. We are warned by Paul about compromising to the pressures of our culture
 - i. *Rom 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

- **How do you guard against relationships that are harmful?**

- This is not about isolating yourself from people who are not Christians
 - We are told to go into the world meaning those who don't know God
 - Jesus associated freely with sinners
- Ask these three questions:
 1. What is the fruit of their lives?
 - Does it line up with the Bible and what Jesus taught?
 - What is the fruit of their actions and the words of their mouth?
 - **Luke 6** – good tree/good fruit; bad tree/bad fruit
 2. What do your family and friends say of them?
 - If you are constantly defending that person you are actually defending yourself
 - If you say, “You just don't know them” you are lying to yourself because it's you who doesn't know them
 3. Who are you when you are with them?
 - Would you act that way, say those things, if your family were with you?
 - What if Jesus was there with you?

- **Psa 141:4** - *Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil so that I take part in wicked deeds along with those who are evildoers;*
- As in everything else ask God to direct you to the people you should be in relationship with
- Just as the fruit of your life reflects your heart so too the people you associate with reflect the same thing
- Sermon on the Mount - **Matthew 5:16** - *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*
- Maturing in your walk with God means guarding yourself against spiritual and emotionally unhealthy relationships