STRENGTH IN NUMBERS Part 3

> Petter ogether

> > A STUDY BY Christy Wimber

LET'S REVIEW

I hope you enjoyed both part 1 and part 2 of "Better Together." Before we begin our final week, make sure to watch our video on Part 3 of "Better Together."

EXODUS 17:1-16

TAKEAWAY FROM LAST WEEK:

WE AREN'T MADE TO GO
THROUGH LIFE ALONE.
WE AREN'T MADE
TO BATTLE ALONE,
AND WE AREN'T MADE TO
CELEBRATE ALONE.
WE ARE STRONGER...TOGETHER!

let's Discuss

HOW HAS YOUR PERCEPTION CHANGED IN REGARDS TO COMMUNITY?

WHAT POSITIVE CHANGES CAN YOU IDENTIFY SINCE BEGINNING THIS STUDY?

"Victory is found in never giving up! The enemy only wins if we quit!"

AARON, HUR, AND JOSHUA



Aaron, Hur, and Joshua were all used by God to bring victory for the Israelites. Joshua was sent into the battle to fight, while the other men were called by God to support Moses.

Vs 12 "When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset."

While Aaron and Hur served Moses, God gave victory to the Israelites.

Both men have been with Moses for many years. They fought alongside him on the battlefield and now in humble service. They provided practical support, getting a stone for Moses to rest, in addition to holding up his arms.



Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Moses, Aaron, Hur, and Joshua offer us a glimpse into how God chooses to use humility in community--to bring the victory.

"Humility in community can help bring the victory"



AARON, HUR, AND JOSHUA (CONT'D)

All three men had to make the choice to serve God in whichever way He instructed:

"Humble servitude within community can impact your family for generations."

JOSHUA: JOSHUA SERVED GOD AND MOSES FAITHFULLY. HE WAS BRILLIANT AT BATTLE AND STRONG IN FAITH, THEREFORE, GOD PLACED HIM WHERE HE COULD SERVE THE PEOPLE BEST.

Aaron: The brother of Moses was gifted at speech. He spoke for Moses because Moses had a stuttering problem. For years, Aaron served Moses. Over time, Aaron learned the purposes of God were bigger than his need for a platform. Due to his obedience, his family line was chosen as the honored priests for Israel.

EXODUS: 31:2

HUR: HUR, WAS FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH-- AND HE SERVED ALONGSIDE AARON AND MOSES. HE IS FOUND IN THE EARLY DAYS AT MOUNT SINAI-- UNTIL THIS TIME OF BATTLE. IN HIS OLD AGE, HE HUMBLY HELD THE ARMS OF MOSES. THIS ACT OF SERVITUDE TO MOSES AND ULTIMATELY THE LORD, LEFT AN HONORED FAMILY LINE. WE DISCOVER IN EXODUS 31:2 THAT HUR BECOMES THE GRANDFATHER OF BEZALEL, WHO OUR SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT HIM, "I HAVE FILLED HIM WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD, WITH ABILITY AND INTELLIGENCE, WITH KNOWLEDGE AND CRAFTSMANSHIP..." BEZALEL OVERSAW THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE, AS WELL AS THE ARK OF GOD. HUMBLE SERVITUDE WITHIN COMMUNITY CAN IMPACT YOUR FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.

AARON, HUR, AND JOSHUA (CONT'D)



Aaron, Hur, and Joshua served God until old age. Joshua eventually gets called to lead all of God's people.

However, Aaron and Hur consistently held positions under Moses.

Aaron and Hur display great humility in this passage but they are still human. They would still have to work through the obvious questions such as:

'Why did God pick me to serve you?

As humans we must work through our own egos. We may always wonder why God does things the way He does--and it is okay to question things we don't understand.

However, we will never fully comprehend what God allows, or why God often puts us in situations we would never choose for ourselves. Yet, we still trust that He does have a purpose.

"Where God calls you, He will give you grace to walk it out."

It is important to work through the fact that you may not ever 'get' why God has placed you where He has you. But don't allow what you don't understand to take you out of the higher purpose, which is to serve God faithfully in where He has called you. Where God calls you, He will give you grace to walk it out.

HUMILITY

IS GOD
CALLING YOU
TO SERVE
SOMEONE?

WRITE BELOW ABOUT A TIME WHEN GOD ASKED YOU TO SERVE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER OR EVEN A BOSS. HOW DIFFICULT WAS/IS THAT TIME FOR YOU?



EACH HAS THEIR PART



If you notice, God chose to use ALL four men: Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur to bring victory for the Israelites. God didn't need them, but He *chose* to use them-- and each person served a purpose.

Often we don't think what we do matters. It is the person 'out in front' who seems to get all the credit; however, serving faithfully matters to God. It is not where we serve, but rather how we serve that is important to Him.

Acts 20:19 "I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing."

No one person is more important than another. Each was called to their own position-- and each job obediently fulfilled will bring the victory.

How you serve God matters. Many people don't know how to serve and follow, but GREAT leaders become great leaders by being GREAT FOLLOWERS!



"It is not where we serve but rather how we serve that is important."



2021

AGREEMENT & COMMUNITY



"I have found that choosing to agree— to disagree— is one of the most powerful lessons any ONE of us will have— to address in our relationships one another."

It can be very hard to serve God if we question where He has us--and why He put us in a difficult situation. The enemy loves to distract us from what is most important.

When we find ourselves in a serious situation, such as life or death, we quickly realize that perhaps what we thought was important didn't matter at all.

YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL WHERE A CHURCH, A PASTOR, OR AN INDIVIDUAL IS-- BY WHAT THEY ARGUE ABOUT IN CHURCH. IF SOMEONE IS CONCERNED WITH THE PAINT ON THE WALLS OR THE CARPET IN THE SANCTUARY, THEN THEY CAN'T FOCUS ON THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH. WHEN WE REALIZE THAT IN CHURCH WE ARE FIGHTING FOR THE SAKE AND SOUL OF OTHERS, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE ABOUT THE LITTLE THINGS.

The high importance people place on agreement to serve alongside one another, has taken many people out of community. If you are fighting for your life--or someone you love is in great danger, then agreement does not matter. What does matter is who is praying for you, supporting you, and holding up your arms! This is what true community looks like. People show up in our battles because they know we need their care and support.

I have found that choosing to agree-- to disagree-- is one of the most powerful lessons anyone of us will have to address in our relationships one another.

AGREEMENT & COMMUNITY (CONT'D.)



The first church in Acts was filled with people who did life together every day. They chose to agree on the most important things: God, serving, giving, and listening. The need to be in charge or to be noticed was not a priority. The early church was known for its encouragement, because of this God added to their numbers daily.

ACTS 4:32-35 Acts 4:32-35 "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales, and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need."

"God is not after agreement, but rather choosing to love and serve despite our disagreements"

Think about this passage in Acts for a minute: They were of "one heart and mind." This is a picture of people choosing their mission over agreement. They thought rightly about one another; therefore, they were able to complete their mission together. We often put too much emphasis on the things that matter little.

When it comes to getting everyone to agree, the truth isagreement is a luxury within community. We will never fully agree on everything when serving alongside others. God is not after agreement, but rather choosing to love and serve despite our disagreements.

PUT DISAGREEMENT ASIDE

ROMANS 12:8

I AM SURE MOSES, AARON, HUR, AND JOSHUA HAD MANY DISAGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, THEY PUT THEIR EGOS AND NEED TO BE RIGHT ASIDE--IN ORDER FOR GOD TO BRING ABOUT VICTORY.

IF WE PUT OUR OWN IDEAS AWAY FOR A HIGHER PURPOSE, WE WILL EXPERIENCE MORE VICTORY.

WE SERVE A GOD WHO GIVES US FREE WILL. HE GIVES US CHOICE--EVEN IN HOW WE CHOOSE TO SERVE HIM. IT IS NOT JUST WHAT WE DO, BUT HOW WE DO IT THAT MATTERS TO GOD.

let's Discuss

- IS HAVING PEOPLE AGREE WITH YOU VERY IMPORTANT, KIND OF IMPORTANT, OR NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL?
- How do you think you can grow in this AREA?
- DO YOU HAVE A FEW RELATIONSHIPS WHERE YOU MAY DIFFER ON SOME THINGS, BUT YOUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER OVERRIDES THAT NEED TO AGREE? IF SO, TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND SHARE HOW YOU HAVE LEARNED TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP DESPITE DISAGREEMENT.

"It all comes down to choice— and what we choose within our community matters."

REMIND AND REMEMBER



Exodus 17:14-16 "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner. He said, "Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Many times, we find throughout Scripture that God will ask His people to build altars (place of remembrance of worship) as well as, to write down all that God had done amongst them.

"If God's promises are louder than our fear— we will have peace no matter the circumstance."

WHY DID HE DO THAT? THESE WERE HIS INSTRUCTIONS BECAUSE IT IS EASY TO FORGET. WE ARE FORGETFUL PEOPLE. YET, IF WE TAKE TIME BEFORE AND AMID CRISIS TO REMIND OURSELVES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS-A CONFIDENCE WILL BE BORN TO FACE WHATEVER BATTLE IS BEFORE US.

If you notice in our passage, God warns His people that they will always be harassed by the Amalekites. He warned them that this battle will last from "generation to generation." Yet, God promised them that he would handle their enemy.

Too often we forget the promises God has spoken over our lives, especially when we face a battle. Unfortunately, God's promises get drowned out by whatever is loudest in our lives. However, if God's promises are louder than our fear-we will have peace no matter the circumstance.

IN CONCLUSION

"I hope this study has encouraged you to surround yourself with Godly men and women. God has not asked us to walk through life alone. My prayer is for you to discover ways to humbly serve and love the people God has put in your life-because no matter what, we are "better together."

let's Discuss

·HOW OFTEN DO YOU JOURNAL?

•IF YOU JOURNAL, WHAT HAVE YOU DISCOVERED IN WRITING THROUGHOUT VARIOUS SEASONS OF YOUR LIFE?

•IN COMMUNITY, HOW DOES IT HELP YOU WHEN A FRIEND REMINDS YOU OF GOD'S GOODNESS? HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR FRIENDS REMEMBER GOD'S ACTION IN THEIR LIVES?

let's write

*WRITE DOWN SOME OF THE THINGS GOD HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE.

WHEN WE WRITE THESE REMINDERS IT GIVES US CONFIDENCE (FAITH) TO TACKLE WHATEVER WE FACE.
THE SAME GOD WHO WALKED WITH US IN OUR PAST, IS THE SAME GOD WITH US IN OUR PRESENT AND OUR FUTURE.

Please spend time in prayer for one another as you conclude this group study. Thank you for spending the past 3-weeks with me.

- Christy Wimber



JOURNAL PROMPTS FOR THE FUTURE:

This is the conclusion of our study; I encourage you to begin to journal all the amazing things you have seen God do in your life.

- As you journal, remember to ask God to show you where He is active in your life.
- Write down the areas where you have grown and where you would like to grow more.
- Write down constructive ways you will approach the next battle you face?



