

What if they hadn't _____?

“unchained” week 3

Friday was my last day at Friday's :: Ryan's table :: stewed for 30 minutes

Today we are dealing with regrets of victimization and moments of powerlessness.

You had no possible influence over the event,
but the event has an incredible influence on you.

Three categories of people:

- ⊙ CATEGORY 1: Those who are aware of being victimized.
- ⊙ CATEGORY 2: Satisfied with resolution.
- ⊙ CATEGORY 3: Oblivious to their wounds.

Sharing some more of my personal story.

My anger in the spring of 2005 & my powerlessness

PSYCHOLOGICAL FREEBIE:

You know you have buried something if your emotional
reaction is more intense than
the situation deserves.

TIME OUT: When was the last time you got really angry?

Our responses when wronged
come from and create who we are.

A Case Study in Victimization

Turn to 2 Samuel 13 (p. 219).

Here begins one of the most heart-wrenching stories in the Old Testament.

ACT ONE

- ⊙ Amnon rapes Tamar, his half sister (13:1-17).
- ⊙ Tamar becomes a desolate woman (18-20).
- ⊙ David gets angry but does nothing (21-22).

ACT TWO

- ⊙ Absalom kills Amnon, his half brother (23-29).
- ⊙ David mourns & longs for Absalom (30-39).

ACT THREE

- ⊙ God speaks to David through wise counsel (14:1-20).
- ⊙ David is partially reconciled to Absalom (21-33).

In the process, we learn something about God (14:14)

God devises ways to bring reconciliation.

No matter how you've been wronged, you always retain the power to respond, and here's a key truth: Our responses when wronged come from and create who we are.

Who are you?

1. The Eternal Victim (Tamar)

depression & self-pity :: given to blaming :: self-fulfilling paranoia

2. The Unresting Avenger (Absalom)

Always ready to fight :: Kills intimacy before it begins

3. The Delusional Avoider (David)

denial of both events and effects :: Avoids intimacy

4. The Reconciler (God)

seek true justice :: accept the pain :: approach the person as a person not an agent

“The event is God's, the pain is mine,
the other is a real person.”

For God is pleased with you when, for the sake of your conscience, you patiently endure unfair treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing right and are patient beneath the blows, God is pleased with you. This suffering is all part of what God has called you to. Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps.

“He never sinned, and he never deceived anyone.”

He did not retaliate when he was insulted. When he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried away our sins in his own body on the cross so we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. You have been healed by his wounds!

1 Peter 2:19-24 NLT

