May 28 | Sunday Birds & Bees Series: Wrap up

Read Romans 12:9-16



29 | Mon - Foundations matter | Read Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus finished his famous Sermon on the Mount with these verses comparing a wise builder with a foolish one. Whether you are trying to build a house, a marriage, a family or a business, your success will be determined by the foundation you choose. Jesus said a wise person builds on something solid, like a rock. Are you are building your relationships on 'rock' or 'sand'?

30 | Tue - The gavel | Read Matthew 7:1-6

Why is it so wrong to judge others? Is it because, in doing so, you step into God's shoes and take His place? Who of us knows all the details of a matter, so how can we make an accurate assessment? While acknowledging your own faults can be a good thing, judging others always hurts relationships. What can you do this week when you are tempted to judge someone?

01 | Wed – Simple anger or growing bitterness? | Read Ephesians 4:25-27

Anger is a basic human emotion and crops up in every relationship. These verses tell us "to be angry without sinning" but how is that possible? We are called to deal with it honestly, taking ownership of our feelings. When allowed to fester, anger develops into bitterness which can poison you to the core. It is one of the devil's most successful traps. What would happen if your goal was to never go to bed angry, either by resolving an issue or just plain forgiving someone, whether they 'deserve' it or not?

02 | Thu – Think and then speak | Read Ephesians 4:29-32

Many things can tear down a relationship but there are other things you can do intentionally to build up a relationship. They have to do with attitudes and these all-important qualities mentioned in Ephesians: kindness, compassion and forgiveness. What you think will often come out in your words. Would this be a good day to analyze your thoughts and then be more careful about what you say?

03 | Fri – Choices determine your direction | Read Ruth 4:1-17 and Matthew 1:5

Loving another person unconditionally, like Ruth and Boaz did, is the standard to which we can aspire. A successful marriage is not only a result of mutual attraction; it is based on choices. The vows you make when you get married (to love, honor, and respect) are not a one-time event; they are choices to made every day. The impact of faithfulness can be extraordinary. Look in Matthew 1:5 to see how Ruth's commitment to her husband and to God changed the future. What impact could your unconditional love today have on someone's future?

04 | Sat – Unstoppable | Read Romans 8:35--39 and 1 John 4:7-8

Human love has its limitations but God's love does not. Look at this list in Romans to see what cannot separate you from His love. These things may be barriers in your ability to love others but when you invite Jesus to love *through* you, something wonderful can happen. Try this experiment: think of someone in your life who is a challenge to love. Commit to praying for that person daily for a specific length of time - a week, two weeks, a month, you decide - and see what happens. If the results are positive, repeat.

