Differentiation #3:  What Is Holding Me Back?

Numbers 14:17-19

Introduction:

1. How can I be connected to important people and things without being stuck? 1 John 5:21
2. I can be stuck to:
3. WHAT SEEMS TO BE HOLDING ME BACK?
   1. People.
      1. Family.
         1. The ideal. Genesis 2:24
         2. If I don’t leave emotionally, spiritually, sins will be passed on. Numbers 14:18
         3. Keeping family secrets is one way to stay stuck.
            1. Adoption.
            2. Prison.
            3. Mental illness.
            4. Abuse.
            5. Abortion.
            6. Physical illness.
         4. When I value family over truth and God, I am stuck. Matthew 10:37
      2. Friends. 1 Corinthians 15:33
      3. Peter. Galatians 2:11-14
      4. Religious leaders.
         1. Jesus’ teaching. Matthew 15:1-9
         2. Rulers. John 12:42,43
         3. Followers can be stuck to leaders with or without their consent or encouragement. 1 Corinthians 1:11,12
         4. Leaders need to be aware of this danger. 1 Peter 5:2,3
            1. People who feel controlled may need to control.
            2. When my leadership is from choice, I can give choices to others.
      5. Enemies.
         1. Hatred.
         2. Vengeance.
         3. I am stuck to an enemy when that person has control of my thoughts and/or actions.
         4. God wants me to be free from enemies – not stuck. Matthew 5:43,44; Romans 12:17-21
      6. Expectations of others – real or imagined.
         1. Wash car every week.
         2. Buy more expensive car than I could afford.
         3. Reject raise that I wanted and needed because of what others might think and say.
         4. Gail having only one Sunday dress.
         5. Buying Kerby vacuum cleaner to care for new carpet on a credit card.
         6. We may not be controlled by what others think but by what we think others think.
   2. Money, material things. Matthew 6:24
      1. Creditors. Proverbs 22:7
      2. Borrowers. Proverbs 6:1-5; Proverbs 11:15
      3. The rich young ruler was stuck. Matthew 19:21,22
      4. I can be stuck to money in either poverty or riches. Proverbs 30:7-9
   3. Feelings.
      1. I have a right to my different feelings – Jesus did.
         1. Anger. Mark 3:5
         2. Sadness. John 11:35
      2. I need to have the appropriate feeling at the right time. Romans 12:15; Proverbs 14:13
      3. I don’t need to get stuck – thinking I have to make myself or others feel a certain way. Ecclesiastes 7:2,3; Proverbs 17:22
      4. Some people feel pressured (stuck), trying to make themselves or others feel a certain way.
         1. “Let’s make him feel better.”
         2. “We’ve got to cheer her up.”
         3. “Lie to Mama; it will make her feel better.”
   4. Irresponsibility.
      1. Under-responsibility. Matthew 25:24-28
      2. Over-responsibility.
         1. Elders are responsible for providing leadership–not for the salvation of every member of the congregation. Hebrews 13:17
         2. Preachers, teachers, parents are responsible for living and teaching the truth – not making everyone obey it. 1 Corinthians 1:17; 1 Timothy 4:16; Deuteronomy 6:6,7; Ezekiel 33:8,9
         3. I am not required to be more responsible than Jesus. Matthew 23:37
4. WHAT IS HOLDING ME BACK IS ME:  MY CHOICES, MY COMMITMENT.
   1. I am the one who gives people, money, feelings, and responsibility issues power over me.
   2. I can choose not to control others. Joshua 24:14,15
   3. I can choose not to be controlled by others, but God. Acts 5:28,29
   4. I am free to serve God when I no longer need to control or be controlled.

Conclusion:

1. What is holding me back?
2. My decision not to accept God’s gift of freedom.
3. The good news:  I can have it.
4. Help is available to all who want it. Matthew 11:28-30