



FRANKLIN ROAD

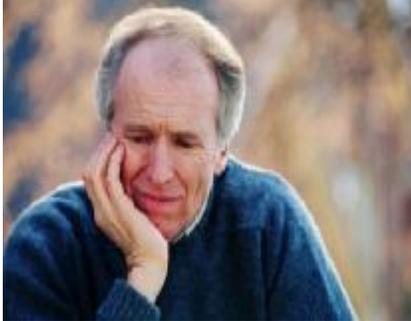
baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 17, 2014

CHOKED UP



ON SUNDAY PASTOR ANDY AND I PREACHED A JOINT MESSAGE CALLED “CHOKED OUT.” IT WAS BASED ON MATTHEW 13:22 WHERE JESUS PROVIDES THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED AND INDICATES THAT SOME OF THE SEED FELL ON THORNY GROUND WHERE IT CAN EASILY GET CHOKED OUT.

MY THOUGHTS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER ARTICLE HAVE NOW TURNED TO BEING CHOKED UP. ONE DICTIONARY DEFINITION I FOUND FOR THE PHRASE INDICATES THAT BEING CHOKED UP IS TO BE “UNABLE TO SPEAK BECAUSE OF STRONG EMOTION.” I WONDER, WHAT KIND OF STRONG EMOTION CHOKES US UP?

BEING CHOKED UP BECAUSE OF SORROW IS APPROPRIATE. IN ROMANS 12:15 LOVING CHRISTIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEEP WITH THE WEEPING. BECAUSE WE ARE CHOKED UP WE DON’T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT TO SAY AND THAT IS OK, JUST BEING THERE IS ENOUGH. AFTERALL, THE BEST THING JOB’S FRIENDS DID AFTER HEARING OF HIS DISTRESS WAS TO SIT WITH HIM IN SILENCE. (JOB 2:11-13). WE KNOW TOO THAT JESUS HIMSELF WEPT AT LAZARUS’ GRAVE (JOHN 11:35) AND THAT BELIEVERS ASSOCIATED WITH DORCAS WEPT WHEN SHE PASSED AWAY (ACTS 9:39).

IT’S ALSO GOOD TO BE SORROWFULLY CHOKED UP WHEN DEALING WITH OUR SINFUL CONDITIONS. LUKE TELLS OF A SINFUL WOMEN WASHING JESUS’ FEET WITH HER TEARS. (SEE LUKE 7: 36-38). SHE KNEW SHE WAS A SINNER AND SO TOO DID JESUS. YET, SHE NEEDN’T SAY ANYTHING, HER SORROW AND SILENCE WERE POWERFUL. ELSEWHERE PAUL COMMENDS THE CORINTHIANS FOR THEIR GODLY SORROW THAT LED TO THEIR REPENTANCE (II CORINTHIANS 7:11).

BEING CHOKED UP BECAUSE OF FEAR IS INAPPROPRIATE. IF WE FAIL TO SPEAK FOR CHRIST BECAUSE WE FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES THAT IS NOT OK. WHEN JEWS WERE GATHERING IN JERUSALEM FOR ONE OF THE JEWISH FEASTS, JOHN 7:11-13 INDICATES THAT THEY QUIETLY DEBATED AMONG THEMSELVES WHETHER JESUS WAS A GOOD MAN OR ONE WHO LED PEOPLE ASTRAY. HOWEVER, VERSE 13 INDICATES THAT “NO ONE WAS SPEAKING OPENLY OF HIM FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS.” LATER IN JOHN 12:42 WE LEARN THAT MANY OF THE JEWISH RULERS BELIEVED IN CHRIST BUT DID NOT OPENLY CONFESS HIM FOR FEAR OF BEING THROWN OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE. INDEED MARK 16:8 TELLS US THAT THE WOMEN WHO WENT TO CHRIST’S GRAVE AND FOUND THAT HE HAD RISEN “SAID NOTHING TO ANYONE, FOR THEY WERE AFRAID.”

ARE YOU CHOKED UP? MIGHT WE BE SO WHEN SORROWING WITH MOURNERS BUT NOT WHEN SHARING THE GOSPEL.

LOOKING UP,
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE