

**The Ekklesia is a Family Series**  
The Courage of the Ekklesia pt. 2

1. Review from Part 1

**Matthew 16:18-19** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

**Exodus 14:1-15 (condensed)** The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move forward.

- a. As the Ekklesia we have been chosen to live in this generation at this time for a specific reason.
  1. God is asking, “Who will choose to love others no matter if they think, look or act differently than you?” He is making a way for Christians to be known by our love and our oneness with each other despite differences.
  2. **The division in our culture is providing the opportunity to love with the radical, supernatural love of God.**
- ii. The Humility of the Ekklesia
  1. The Ekklesia can’t be stopped if we walk in Humility with our God. Humility leads us into how God wants us to pursue Justice.
- iii. The Justice of the Ekklesia
  1. We pursue Justice by letting his heart become our heart and then we will be able to step into the mess and heartache of injustice with hope
- iv. The Authority of the Ekklesia
  1. The authority of God is released through us when we walk in honor and in the fear of the Lord. Honor is the riverbed that Gods authority flows through.
- v. The Oneness (Unity) of the Ekklesia
  1. We as the Ekklesia are ONE with God and with others. Reconciliation with God is possible and WILL happen because God desires it and made a way by the cross. WE must make every effort to enter into and maintain this oneness and unity.
- vi. The Courage of the Ekklesia
  1. The courage of Jesus was always marked by compassion. The reason for his courage was to show compassion either in bringing justice for the oppressed or mercy for the guilty.
- b. Questions that require courage :
  1. If we ARE ONE, why don’t we live that way?
  2. What burdens are others carrying that I need to help with?
  3. What burden am I carrying that I need to let go of?
- c. In thinking about these questions I was led to Galatians 6:2-10
- d. There is a burden we are not meant to carry and a burden we are meant to carry. And they should lead me to Family with the Ekklesia to find freedom.
  - i. 6:2- Burden – Baros – A troublesome burden.
    1. Overwhelming. More than a man should carry on his own.
  - ii. 6:5 – Phortion – My yoke, my portion, my backpack
    1. Calling. Assignments to love others and to love God.
  - iii. Do good to all, **especially** those who belong to the Family
- e. Three Takeaways from Galatians 6

- i. **I need courage to help with others burdens**
    - ii. **I need courage for my own burden -**
    - iii. **As the Ekklesia courage is needed to be firstly focused on fighting for the ONENESS of the family.**
  
  - f. Three takeaways lead to Three more Questions:
    - i. What burdens am I supposed to carry as the Ekklesia regarding race?
    - ii. What burdens are in the family of Christ regarding race?
    - iii. Are we doing good in the Family of Christ to one another and in our city?
  
  - g. So, what burden (Phortion) am I to carry as a part of the Ekklesia regarding race?
    - i. God's question will be "Did you learn to Love?" My burden is the courage to love the one in front of me.
      - a. Firstly – Believe the Best of Others
      - b. Secondly –Care. Listen. Lament. Don't give up.
        - i. We see the obstacle of going out of our way to build relationships with those of a different race as a heavy burden instead of our calling and glory.
          - 1. Oneness is a necessity
          - 2. Our authority is a reality
          - 3. Cries for Justice need to be taken seriously
          - 4. Doors get opened when I walk in humility
          - 5. This "Phortion" Burden is LIGHT because we have a strong helper right next to us doing the heavy lifting.
        - c. Our calling to be the Ekklesia in ONENESS is not a heavy burden. It's our glory to press in. We must press in!
  
  - h. God has a response to our weakness and propensity to not want to walk in the courage of compassion.
    - i. **His Strength is Perfect in our Weakness**
      - 1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:9-11 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you"
    - ii. **ONENESS WILL AND IS HAPPENING.** This will show the world God's goodness.
      - 1. John 17.22-23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me
    - iii. **Take courage the Harvest is Ripe!**
      - 1. Matthew 9:37-38 The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."
  
  - i. We can have Courage as the Ekklesia in the midst of racial tension and cries for justice for we know the one who can and is making us one.
- 
2. What burdens (Baros) are others carrying **in the Family** regarding race?
  - a. Why ask this question?
    - i. We want to see Oneness, the prayer of Jesus answered.
  - b. My Deep questions about the Burdens of Racism: Why is the black community in our nation and in our city saying that they are hurting? Will we believe them? What is the burden they are carrying that they are saying is too heavy?
- 
3. Two Burdens I have begun to understand more.
  - a. **Burden One:** The Burden of Trauma and Generational Patterns – Traumatic Historical Events Have consequences for the Future.
    - i. Trauma is the result of a scaring emotional and/or physical event that exceeds one's ability to cope.
    - ii. This type of pain has been found to lead to adverse health effects and generational patterns.

1. Often start as Adverse Childhood Experiences
    - a. This should lead us to try to better understand NOT to diagnose someone.
  2. Understand that everyone is in the midst of a great battle and you may not have any way to fully understand it. And you don't have to fully understand.
  3. But we can weep with them in their hurt and believe with them for hope and healing.
- b. **Burden Two: Carrying Accusations**
- i. Many are carrying stories where they have been taken advantage of or have been dishonored because of the color of their skin.
  - ii. The enemy seeks to steal, kill and destroy and he uses any means possible. There is a real aspect to the hurt in the black community in our family.
  - iii. Carrying the accusations of the enemy of our soul disallows us to access oneness with God and others.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- iv. Freedom is found in letting others express their burdens to us and we receive them. And addressing things that have caused division. We must seek reconciliation.

**Matthew 5:23**“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

- v. But freedom is also found when I release someone from their burdens physically and circumstantially. Doors in the spirit get opened when we, as the Ekklesia, declare doors to be opened. If we withhold, then they remain shut.

**John 20:19** On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

- vi. Are we holding accusations against others in the Spirit?
  1. As individuals in this church?
  2. As a church towards our family in this city and nation?
- c. We must release our brothers and sisters from the burdens they are carrying both internally and externally by hearing their stories, don't assume we fully understand their perspective, and work as the Ekklesia on the ground and in the spirit to make sure every part of the body in our city is released from the burdens of continual accusations both internally and externally.

4. Summary:

- a. As the Ekklesia courage is needed to be firstly focused on fighting for the ONENESS of the family.
- b. I need courage for my own burden
  - i. His strength is Perfect in our Weakness
  - ii. Oneness will and is happening
  - iii. Take courage the harvest is ripe
- c. I need courage for others burdens
  - i. To wrestling with deep questions to seek truth AND oneness
  - ii. To recognize trauma in others and empathizing
  - iii. To hear stories and seek reconciliation
  - iv. To release others from their burdens