

“Relationship” Sermon, June 10, 2018

2 Corinthians 4:16-18. 5:1, Mark 3:20-21,31-35

Judges 14:18 New International Version (NIV)

18 Before sunset on the seventh day the men of the town said to him, “What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?” Samson said to them, “If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle.”

Most human beings need to have a primary relationship with some, one significant other. There are some who like the Apostle Paul, may have a special gift that relieves them of this basic human need. We may have many different kinds of relationships with people, but here we are thinking of a primary relationship.

Samson wanted to have a primary relationship with his wife, but she betrayed him. He described her as a heifer, an unbridled cow, lacking discipline. But a primary relationship is one like that of Jezebel and Ahab. When he did not get his way, she went out of her way to make sure that he did. Israel soon

learned to respect Ahab because of the fear of Jezebel. So, we learn from this that primary relationships help us achieve our goals and dreams.

Mark 3:20-21, 31-35 New International Version (NIV)
20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

Jesus' family, not understanding him, God's destiny for him, were betraying him. They shared his parents blood, but family relationships can only take us so far. Recently a friend asked my opinion regarding whether or not he should honor the request of his highly gifted daughter. He felt that she was demanding too much, expecting too much, and wondered how he and his spouse were going to be able to afford the long to-do list she had written for the academic year. I reminded him, "You already agreed to do all that and more before she sallied

forth from her mother's womb. You have no choice, unless you want to limit and break the relationship by denying her gifts and abilities because of your concern about "Where will the money come from."

When the crowd beckoned to Jesus regarding his family's concern he responded,

"Who is my mother and my brothers? They are those who live in primary relationship with God. If they lived in such a relationship, they would not be calling for me and questioning my sanity, they would be aiding me. Likewise, if you are a part of God's family, you who listen and materialize the kingdom are my mother and my brothers.

When our relationship with God is primary, we can do all things through the one who gives us strength.

When our relationship with God is primary, no weapon formed by human being or spiritual power, by congenital dysfunction or family dysfunction, by business slump or theft or breakdowns of equipment or of our bodies can ultimately stop us. The Apostle concluded one of his letters saying, "Now unto him who is able to do exceeding, and fully beyond what

we can ask or think, the only wise God.” This is the power of our relationship, sealed by the Holy Spirit through the outpouring of Pentecost. Amen.