

Sunday, November 3, 2019
Sacred Echoes – Part 1 “Walk Away”
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Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

God speaks to you through His Word.

Discuss; We were challenged to get into the Word, read it, memorize it, meditate on it. learn from it. We

should be ‘self-feeders’, going to the Bible daily. How are you doing?

God uses you to speak His Word to others.

Discuss: Have you experienced something like Ted related about the ‘Sacred Echo’; reading the same

thing as someone else, or seeing the same verse on a calendar etc?

God uses others to speak His Word to you. Am I listening? Am I obeying? Am I sharing?

Walking away, not writing off

“Christians in community are to never give up on one another, never give up on a relationship, and never

write off another believer.” - Timothy Keller

But how do we do that, keeping in mind it is another believer?

1. Walk away from unrepentant believers. Matthew 18:15-17 “If your brother or sister sins, go and

point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they

will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of

two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to

the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

Discuss; Have you had an experience confronting someone, in this church or another in your past?

Share what happened and the result. Did you follow the steps in these verses and what was the result?

How would you treat a ‘pagan’?

Seek repentance and reconciliation, not division

Walking away is not a first step. 24 times in the Gospels, someone walked away from Jesus. He didn’t

go after them. Ted talked about marriage in this context. Some can be saved and that is the first effort of

our church, but some are toxic. We fight for marriage but people are hurt living with a toxic spouse and

may need to walk away. A toxic person is controlling, manipulate, unrepentant. Safety is a priority. We

can’t spend all our time with a toxic person because it takes away from our ministry to others.

Walking away is not a fast process. Not done lightly or rushed.

2. Walk away from divisive people. Titus 3:9-11 “But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and

arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be

sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.”

Discuss: Have you ever experienced something like this, perhaps in a Home Group, or in context with other church-goers?

“Questions upon points wherein Scripture is silent; upon mysteries which belong to God alone; upon

prophecies of doubtful interpretation; and upon mere modes of observing human ceremonials, are all

foolish, and wise men avoid them.” - Charles Spurgeon

May we always be a church that keeps the main thing the main thing.

Discuss: How do you do that? What would you say in a situation like this to bring the main thing back

into focus, graciously and lovingly?

3. Walk away from idle people. 2 Thessalonians 3:6 “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does

not live according to the teaching you received from us. 3:11 We hear that some among you are idle and

disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. 3:14-15 Take special note of anyone who does not

obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. Yet do

not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.”

Discuss: What would you say that would be compassionate and loving?

4. Walk away from easily angered people. Proverbs 22:24-25 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself

ensnared.

Discuss: Have you ever been so influenced by others that you became like them?

5. Walk away from quarrelsome people. Proverbs 26:20-22 “Without wood a fire goes out; without a

gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for

kindling strife. The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.”

You don’t need to show up to every fight you are invited to, but you do need to be specific and

loving when asked why you walked away.

Discuss: How do we show love and care even when we have to walk away (as Jesus did.)