

BAGGAGE
Part 2
Baggage Tags
Gen 17:1-8

We run fastest, love fullest, and live lightest when we let go ... of the baggage.

Today we're talking about *Baggage Tags*

So many times we are tagged in life. Some is good. Some is bad.

I posted on Facebook and said what are some of the names and labels that you were called as a kid and growing up?

Some of them, I got some private emails, or messages, and some of them I can't even re-use the words because the things that were spoken over people were so vile and so challenging.

And so we have all of those groups in society ... tags go onto us in adulthood.

I'm a Democrat. I'm a Republican. I'm a Liberal. I'm a Conservative. I'm a Tea-Party. I'm leftwing, rightwing, I'm a tree-hugger. I'm upper-class. I'm middle-class. I'm low-class. I'm white collar. I'm blue collar. I'm rich. I'm poor. I'm on welfare. I'm homeless.

And then the names go on like "ignorant," "worthless," "coward," "spineless," "scum," "workaholic," "unlovable," "addict," "co-dependent," "unattractive," "homosexual," "angry" and "bitter," "broken," "poverty," "handicapped," "special needs," "rides the short bus," "quitter," "alcoholic," "useless," and then the enemy brings in his. Guilty, sinner, heathen, and hypocrite.

All kinds of things were spoken over us and those things have an influence in our life and in our world.

Words have a piercing impact on our lives

Whoever said, "Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," was lying.

They were totally lying! And they were masking the pain that was really there.

Some quotes that were shared with me ...

"I won't be surprised when you fail."

"Why can't you be more like your brother?"

"You'll never amount to anything."

"Your marriage won't last five years. You'll be divorced."

And it's amazing the things that parents, teachers, coaches, friends ... have spoken over us.

If you're taking notes with us today, words have a piercing impact on our lives. A piercing impact!

It could be a piercing impact for good or it could be a piercing impact that pops that bubble, deflates us, and falls from the sky.

Proverbs puts it this way ... **Pr 18:21**: "The tongue has the power of life and death. And those who love it will eat its fruit."

Proverbs 12:18 says, "Reckless words pierce like a sword but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

We need to guard the words that we speak over one another.

The things we say about one another ... they can add life to people or they can cause death to people.

And they can deflate us and defeat us or they can inflate us and help us to believe things about us that we weren't sure were true.

Proverbs 15:14 says, "The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit."

And James gives us wisdom ... James 3: 9-10. It says, "*With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father and with it we curse human beings who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.*"

We need to guard what we say about our children.

What you say about your husband.

What you speak about your wife.

They can add life to them in blessing and health and bring healing, or they can cause a catastrophe and cursing and deflate someone's life and ego.

We need to be speaking words of life. Words of blessing.

Secondly, what we hear formulates our beliefs. And our beliefs ignite corresponding action.

Example ... if the weatherman starts saying ... well last week they were saying it was going to start snowing Monday and Tuesday.

It's going to snow, it's going to snow.

And there came a point this weekend that you went, "It's going to snow." And then all of the sudden I'm watching the weather ... it was like, "It's not going to snow."

Now I have to undo my beliefs. I was ready for it to snow. I was kinda geared up for it! "No, no, it's not

going to snow!”

But see when we hear about it, and we believe it, it formulates our actions.

And so if you hear, “loser,” “loser,” “loser,” “loser.” “You’re a loser.” “You’re a loser.” “You’re a loser.” “You’re a loser.” “You’ll never amount to anything.” “You’ll never be any good.” “You’re never going to become anything.”

Guess what? How high does that person soar? They end up hearing that and so then they believe, “I’m a loser.”

So then it affects their actions as to who they are and how they live.

(2 Cor 4:13) says, *“I believed therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak.*

What we hear ... faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God ...

when we hear the Word of God, we start to believe the Word of God

and when we hear it enough, over and over again, and we hear what God declares about us versus what the world says about us ...

we’ll begin to believe it and once we believe it, it’ll change the way we live and it will change the way we walk and will change the way we talk.

Some of you ... some of you ladies ... you speak over your husband,

“You’re a loser. You’re never going to ... we’re never going to get out of debt.”

And you start speaking this stuff? And all your husband does is live up to what you say.

And some of you go around talking about your “old lady.”

If you call your wife an old lady long enough, she’s going to start to believe that and she’s going to start to look like that!

I don’t call my wife “old lady.” I call her young, and beautiful, and outrageously gorgeous.

Men you can be the thing that puts the wind beneath their wings and talking about how beautifully and wonderfully they’re made.

You say, “Well, my wife’s not a Victoria Secret model.” Well ... get over it. Okay?

You’re talking about .00001% of society. Alright? Get over it!

Start thanking God for the woman ... the wife of your youth that you do have.

Start rejoicing and have eyes only for her!

Consecrate and dedicate ... as Job said, “I’ve made a covenant with my eyes.”

Have a covenant with your eyes, but only for your wife. And esteem her and value her.

Tell her how beautiful she is.

You’re with me sisters? I’m trying to help my sisters out.....

Here’s what God says ... here’s how God responds. **Romans 4:17**: *“For God will give life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. He calls things that are not as though they were.”*

Which leads us to number three. **We need to live up to our destiny and not down to our past.**

Not down to the baggage tag that people have tried to label us and put on us and say, “You’re a procrastinator. You’re never going to make it. You’re an addict and you’ll always be an addict.”

Addict doesn’t define you. Addict is not who you are.

That’s not who God says you are.

I love in Genesis, Chapter 17 ... we see here in the Book of Genesis that God has appeared to Abram and the word “Abram” means Exalted Father.

Gen 17:5

And God appears to Abram and Sarai and he says, “I’m going to make you the Father of many nations.”

He said, “I’m going to make your offspring as the stars of the sky and as the sands of the sea.”

And Abram says, “Dude ... we’ve been trying for decades!

And we’re now old and Sarah’s womb is dead and there’s no hope.”

I mean he’s like, “What are you talking about?”

And God said, “Abram, I’m going to change your name Abraham. Father of Many. Or Father of Many Nations.”

So I’m not sure what the timeframe was from the time that his name was changed until conception of their first son, but then it became, “Hey, don’t call me Abram no more! Call me Abraham!”

“Hey, Father of Many Nations, do you want broccoli or peas for dinner tonight?”

“Hey, Father of Many Nations, would you take the trash out?”

“Father of Many Nations, could you get gas in my car please?”

“Father of Many Nations, are you going to mow the yard today?”

“Father of Many Nations, let’s go to bed.”

“Father of Many Nations, come on, let’s try.

God said we could.” “Father of Many Nations, let’s go.”
And somewhere in that process, Abraham, Father of Many Nations, started to think, “I’m the Father of Many Nations! I’m the Father of Many Nations.”
And that belief system began to be formed and at some point in time he said, “Sarah, it’s going to happen!
I’m the Father of Many Nations! My seed is not dead and your womb is not dead.
I believe what God says is going to happen!”
****We have to live up to our destiny and not down to our past****

There must be repetition before there is a reputation. No one gets a reputation for doing something one time.

The reputation you have now ... good, bad, or indifferent ... is the result of repetitive behavior, repetitive actions.

Some of you might have the tag that you’re lazy. You’re late to work. You leave early. You’re not very diligent. You forget to pay your bills. “Oh, I forgot to stop at the store.” “I don’t want to.”

And you’re just real lazy.

You got that because of repetitive behavior. And so you got tagged with that.

So if you don’t like the name and the tag that’s been put on you, change your actions. Change your behavior.

You say, “Well, I made a change and my wife is still talking about me.”

Or, “My husband’s still doing that I’m just trying to be diligent. I’m trying to be good.”

And they’re just not seeing the change yet.

**Whatever a man sows, that will he also reap.

***Sow, sow, sow ... plant and invest and you’ll see the rewards come.

And then lastly, **our true identity is what our Creator says about us**

Not what our friends say.

Not what our family members say.

Not what the world says about us.

It’s the identity that we have in Christ Jesus.

I want you to begin to reprogram your thinking.

I want you to begin to take off the tags of, “worthless,” and “sinner,” “spineless,” and “coward.”

And I want you to begin to put on tags of “pure,” and “overcomer,” and “holy,” and “righteous,” and “Son of God.”

I want you to begin to feed your belief system and what you hear you’ll believe and ultimately your beliefs will formulate your actions.

The first identifying factor is we’re called, “Christians.”

It was Antioch in Acts, Chapter 11 ... that the disciples were first called Christians.

The word literally transcribed there means, “Little Christ.” Little Christ.

You’re acting just like that Jesus guy! You’re goin’ around ... you’re layin’ hands on the sick ... you’re casting out demons ... you’re tellin’ about God’s love ... you’re blessin’ people and you’re helpin’ people.

You’re just like Jesus! What a compliment. [Amen!] What a compliment.

Not ... you’re religious.

Not ... oh, oh, you know, you’re so different from everyone else.

But you’re just Jesus, with skin on.

We need to be Little Christ’s. We need to take our identity as a Christian.

We’re called disciples of Christ in John, Chapter 8.

We’re called believers in 1st Corinthians 7.

We’re not outcasts, but we’re called Citizens of Heaven in Philippians, Chapter 3.

We’re no longer sinners, but we’re saints.

We are saints in the Family of God called to be saints.

No longer are we not worthy or disqualified, but the Bible says in Colossians 1 that we are qualified and we are holy people.

We have been forgiven according to Colossians, Chapter 1.

And we’ve been redeemed.

We’re a chosen people holy and dearly loved by God. You are a holy people.

You’re not a sinful dirty rotten people ... you’re a holy person.

You are a holy man. You are a holy woman of God.

Why do people get off in sin? Because they don’t believe they’re holy.

If you believed you were holy, you wouldn't want to go jump in that mud puddle.
If you believed you were clean, you wouldn't want to go and partake of those acts and situations.
People aren't believing what God says about them.

We're a chosen generation. We're a royal priesthood. A holy nation. God's special possession.
1st Peter, Chapter 2. The Bible tells us in 2nd Corinthians 5, we're a new creation in Christ.

Old things passed away, all things become new.

2nd Corinthians 5:21 tells us that we are the righteousness of God.

That we've been made clean ... we're in right standing with God, not because of our works but because of the works of Jesus.

We're no longer guilty, but we've been declared innocent.

Hebrews 10:22 says, "Having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

We're not the lost ... we're the saved in Jesus' name.

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

We're not the condemned ... we are the redeemed. We're redeemed.

We've been bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The word "redeemed" means to make something acceptable or pleasant in spite of its negative qualities or aspects.

In spite of our sins.

In spite of our mistakes. "Oh you're dirty ... you're worthless ____."

No, the Bible declares that we are washed. We are sanctified and we are justified.

The Bible tells us that we are anointed of God.

God's power, God's spirit ... His anointing is upon us.

Not going to be. Not someday.

His spirit abides within us and we are anointed of God.

You are anointed in your job.

You are anointed to be a husband.

You are anointed to be a wife.

You say, "I don't know what to do." I don't either!

We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Don't knock God's house! Some of you look in the mirror, "How I look in this house.

The shingles are falling off. The siding's all wrinkly. Look at this house. I don't like this house.

This part of the house is bulging. And this part of the house" Don't knock God's house!

You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit and you've been declared pure and blameless.

You are not filled with sin and dirt; but you're pure and you're blameless.

You are blameless in God's sight.

In Jeremiah 1:5 it says that you have been set apart.

Before you were born, "I set you apart," God said, "for a purpose and for a plan and for a destiny."

You're an ambassador for Christ ... that you represent the Kingdom of Heaven.

You're the joyful. You're not downcast and depressed.

You still say, "Well, I'm just depressed. I'm just depressed. I'm going through a hard time.

I'm depressed. I'm depressed. I'm depressed." What are you saying? "I'm depressed."

What are you going to get? Depression!

I'm filled with joy! I'm filled with the spirit of God! I'm filled with the life of God! I'm filled with the joy of God!

I break the powers of depression from over my life! I break the negative thoughts that attack me.

I'm an overcomer in this life and nothing can defeat me! God's on my side! Why would I be depressed?

The Most High God is living for me! I can't ... I have no reason to be depressed!!!

God's on my side! WOW!

And when we live that way and we think that way, and start aligning our thoughts with the word of God and get rid of the bad tags and start accepting the tags, God said it's going to change you live and the way you think.

1st Corinthians 2:16: But we have the mind of Christ. We are God's people ... declared God's people.
We're no longer little orphan Annie's.
We've no longer been orphaned. But the Bible tells us that we are children of the Most High.
That we've been adopted as sons and daughters.
In 2nd Corinthians 6 and Ephesians 1: We've been predestined for adoption.
That if we're adopted ... that means we are citizens and members of His household.
That we're children of God and born of God and there's nothing that can stop us.
There's nothing that can hinder us because God is on our side.
God is our Dad. We're children of the light.
Jesus said, "You're the light of the world." We don't walk in darkness.

In John 15, Jesus said, "I've called you friends."
And if you're a son or daughter of God, you're heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.
And that means that if you're a part of the family, you are blessed of the Father.
It says, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come you who are blessed by my Father.'
Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." We have everlasting life through Christ Jesus.
We don't have the taste of death. We might taste physical death, but we won't taste of eternal death and damnation.
We're not the weak and limited ... we're the powerful and the unlimited.
And we overcome all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt us.
"Well you're just this 'name it claim it' stuff. You're just this 'name it claim it' stuff.
No! I'm in declaring God's word over my life. I'm in speaking truth and not speaking lies.

When sickness comes, that's a lie. God declares that I am the healthy. God declares that by the stripes of Jesus Christ, I have been ... past tense ... healed!!! Jesus not only bought and paid for my sins, but he paid for my sickness and disease as well. And so I reject the package when it comes. "That's not mine. I'm the healthy. I'm the blessed of the Lord. I'm healthy in Jesus' name. I don't accept this sickness or disease. I'm free in Jesus' name."

You're not the addicted.
You're not the bound.
You're not in bondage.
You are free in Jesus' Name. [Amen!]
You are a faith walker.
You are excellent.
You are a winner and an overcomer.
You are prosperous in whatever you do as you live and walk and dwell ... like a tree planted by the springs of water, whatever you do, prospers in Jesus' Name.
You're a conqueror ... more than a conqueror.
What Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."
You're strong, you're courageous, and you are victorious.
And the Bible declares in 2nd Corinthians 2:14, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph."

Would you stand to your feet? Now watch this.
Doesn't matter what the world says, your family says, your friends say ... Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free." [Amen!]
The way you get rid of a baggage tag, is you dive into God's word.
You dive into His word and you begin to feed on what God says about you.

Father of Many Nations, Father of Many Nations, Father of Many Nations ... You start to believe what God says.
You're an overcomer. You're triumphant. You're victorious. You're a winner in this life.
And you begin to hear enough of God's words, you'll start to believe that.
And when you start to believe that, you're going to start walking differently.

Now listen to this: **Philippians 2:9-10:** "Therefore God exalted him [Jesus] to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name. That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth."

Begin to build a new reputation by repetition.
Begin to build a new tag as to who you are by declaring God's word and His promises over your life.
Amen?

Father, I pray in Jesus' name for every single person here. And I break the lies, the deceptions, the vile words that have been spoken over people's lives. And Lord I just release the truth of God's word ... that the truth will set the captives free. And Lord they'll begin to believe ... they'll begin to speak and they'll begin to act in the destiny, in the word, in the name, and the label that You have placed upon each one of us. And God, help us to live and walk like the heroes and champions of faith that we are in this life. Help us to go into work tomorrow with a different mindset, a different attitude. Help us to treat and esteem our family members in a different way. Begin to speak words of light, words of blessing, words of love, words that add and benefit those that hear them. In Jesus' name we pray. Everybody said? Amen! Amen!