**Fixer Upper**

**Week 1 – Disappointment**

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| **CONNECTION (ORIENTATION)** |

1. **INTRO**: At some point everything new becomes old. As things become old it is necessary to take an inventory of what needs to be fixed. Cars need to be fixed. Homes have all sorts of repairs that must be fixed. If you’re a parent, toys must be fixed. Businesses have old models and systems that need to be fixed. And then there’s you and me. If you’re a human being something needs fixed! All of us need to be fixed. Inside all of us are hidden struggles that can lead to bigger problems if we fail to address them. This series plans to address just that.
2. **TODAY**: Today we’re going to begin where brokenness leads, namely disappointment.
3. **PERSONAL STORY**: This past weekend we were in Ohio to celebrate Emily’s Grandfather’s 90th birthday. We had a great time and had the opportunity to see a lot of her family. Being in Ohio, there are a lot of Ohio St. fans and this is especially true in her family. Some of you may have heard that love covers a multitude of sins. Love also has a way of influencing people. Emily’s youngest nephew is in a house full of Ohio St. fans. Let me rephrase that. He’s in a family full of Ohio St. fans except me. However, after staying a simple week with his favorite uncle, (me), he now screems “Go Blue and yucky buckeyes.” As you can imagine at the 90th Birthday party hearing the youngest family member scream go blue created a lot of disappointment for most of the family. Isn’t love amazing!
4. **CONNECTION**: Disappointment is something we experience daily. We experience the disappointment of the buffet running out of steak. We experience the disappointment of a coupon not working. We experience the disappointment of a co-worker forgetting your cup of coffee.

***TRANSITION****: While we all have disappointments, some disappointments have a greater effect on our lives than others.*

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| **TENSION (IDENTIFICATION)** |

1. **PERSONAL STORY**: Two weekends ago Emily and I received a phone call about a Nigerian child that was going to be abandoned by the Mother because of a health problem. The witch doctor in her tribe said if she brought him home they’d have to sacrifice him. I spoke to a few ministers from Nigeria who confirmed the tribes do this with unhealthy children. This mother decided to abandon the baby. Emily and I were anxious at the opportunity to adopt this little boy. Though we were one of three families in the running we were told that we were the favored family. Though we knew the mother must be disappointed we hoped she found peace that her son wouldn’t be sacrificed. We prayed she’d find peace knowing her son was in good hands. Emily and I worked had to prepare for the possibility of a new addition to our family prior to taking our trip. Then on the way to Ohio last weekend we received a call that the child had taken a major turn for the worse and passed away. Disappointment is the only word that described how we felt. Disappointment for the mother and disappointment that we wouldn’t be adopting this little boy.
2. **GENERAL**: Maybe some of you have experienced disappointment like this. It hurts! Disappointment at its simplest form is an expectation that is unfulfilled. Disappointment can cause frustration and many other emotions. It can be found in our careers, in our relationships and even in our faith. Disappointment surrounds us.
3. **OUTSIDERS**: For those who don’t follow Christ, its easy to have disappointments in Christianity. Unfortunately, some come to the conclusion that God doesn’t exist or isn’t good because of disappointment. Trusting in God when you feel he disappointed you isn’t easy to process. This doesn’t only apply to those who don’t follow Christ. This applies to us Christians as well.
4. **INSIDERS**: As believers we all have unrealistic expectations of how we want God to do something for us. When He doesn’t do what we want or when we want something we become disappointed. And like every form of disappointment, the pain can cause us to stop moving forward, stop believing or stop following Christ altogether.
5. **CHALLENGE**: Whether you’re a follower of Christ or not we all have expectations that are unmet resulting in disappointment. The challenge with disappointment is choosing how we deal with it. We can cover it up or we can address the issues that brought disappointment.

***TRANSITION****: The good news is that God is able to help us work through our disappointments and bring joy, peace and hope back to our lives. Further, King David gives us a great example to follow when we find ourselves in disappointment.*

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| **TRUTH (ILLUMINATION)** |

1. **CONTEXT**: King David is one who has played a very large role in teaching us about God. While King David has taught us a lot about God, there was some questions whether or not what was written could be trusted. The reason was because archeology had never produced any type of proof that David was a real King. Kings before David and after David had been proven with archeological digs, but David had never been found until the 1990s. In the 1990’s after a cease fire archeologists were given a rare opportunity to dig in areas that had been off limits prior due to housing and businesses sitting on the sites of interest. During those digs multiple items were found including coins with King David’s inscription. There were other artifacts with his reign inscribed with quotes from scripture. This discovery serves to prove that the writings of David’s life are accurate.
2. **STORYLINE**: With this in mind our story picks up with David’s reign as King. Israel had been defeated and the ark of God’s presence had been taken away. After some time the ark came back to Israel’s possession but remained outside of the city because of the sin of the nation. After some time, David desires to bring the presence of the Lord back into Israel. Israel is excited with David. We pick up on vs. 1.

**2 Samuel 6:1-5**

**1 David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand.2He and all his men went to Baalahin Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. 3They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart 4with the ark of God on it,and Ahio was walking in front of it. 5David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets,harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.**

* You don’t have to live long to have fond memories of something in the past. The majority of us probably wish we could go back in time to relive that one special experience that shaped our life. We tend to call those memories the good ole days.
* There are days I watch basketball and want to relive those glory days. A few years back I thought I’d play some basketball on a league at my old church. I thought to myself, this was going to be fun. The fun times I had in basketball drew me back to try and experience them again. This time it wasn’t fun though. I was sore and not very good.
* In many ways, this happens in church as well. So many of us have great memories of something God did in the past. We want to get back to those good ole days and copy the past traditions thinking it will yield the same results. This is where Israel was. Israel wanted God’s blessings back and wanted to experience God bless them as a nation economically, against their enemies and with overall success. So David went to get the ark and bring their greatest praise to God. Because that’s what you do when you want to relive something. You go back to the greatest memory and copy that behavior. That will result in the same outcome as before, right?

**2 Samuel 6:6-8**

**6When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 7The Lord’s anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God. 8Then David was angry because the Lord’s wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah. 9David was afraid of the Lord that day and said, “How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?”**

* Wow. Not exactly what they expected. Here they are worshipping God with everything inside of them and things take a major turn for the worse. They had an unrealistic expectation of God and he stopped them in their tracks.
* Expectations are something we all have. However, sometimes our expectations are unrealistic. When what we want is revealed as an unrealistic expectation disappointment sets in. This is especially true for followers of Christ. Too many times we make assumptions that aren’t healthy.
* **PERSONAL EXAMPLE**: Before Emily and I heard about the opportunity to potentially adopt this child we had a lot of God ordained events take place. Someone donated us money that helped us renew our home study. While mowing the lawn I heard two messages from two separate pastors that focused on asking the question, who can I help with the resources I personally have. After hearing these messages I was moved by God and prayed asking Him who I could help. As soon as I finished mowing Emily came to me telling me there was an opportunity to adopt a child. Sunday rolled around and someone again gave Emily and I a personal financial gift. All of these things looked like God was leading us to adopting a child. It’s easy to see why we’d assume this to be God’s will. Unfortunately, it wasn’t. We wanted a baby to adopt. I told Emily that I didn’t want to assume this was from God. I told Emily, let’s let God lead us. The amount of disappointment we could have experienced had we made the assumption God would move this way would have created a great deal of depression and questioning God.
* This was the same place Israel found themselves in. They were disappointed because what they wanted didn’t work. Israel was worshipping God with all they had and Uzzah attempts to catch the presence of God when the oxen stumbles. Uzzah loses his life and as you can imagine it brought a lot of confusion for Israel. They were giving their highest praise to God and God strikes Uzzah down. Why? Confusion set in for Israel, but anger was the result for David. David’s anger soon turned into fear. Disappointment settled in.
* If you’ve ever experienced an unrealistic expectation you know the feeling of disappointment that follows. And disappointment can lead to unhealthy behaviors. Here’s the truth about disappointment.

**Truths of disappointment-**

1. Disappointment can make us angry.
   1. Angry at others
   2. Angry at self
   3. Angry at God
   4. Angry enough to respond with spite. What do we give ourselves permission to do because of anger?
2. Disappointment can shake our confidence.
3. Disappointment can make us feel confused.
4. Disappointment can break our will.
5. Disappointment can slow down or shut down the plan. (God’s timing is not our time table.)
6. Disappointment will cause us to take God’s blessings for granted.
7. Disappointment will humble us.

* This was where Israel was. So David sends the ark to Obed-Edom the Gittite’s house and returns to Israel to regroup. Our story continues..

**2 Samuel 6:10-13**

**10He was not willing to take the ark of the Lord to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. 11The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his entire household. 12Now King David was told, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God.” So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. 13When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.**

* Let me take a moment to pause and speak to us as a church. If you’ve ever had a spiritual experience and hope to have that again this is a great lesson to learn. I know individuals and churches who want a move of God they experienced in their past. I’m not saying its unattainable, but we have to check our motives for God’s presence. God has given his church a purpose to be a light to outsiders. He wants his church to be blessed to be a blessing, not just have a good feeling. . We don’t see a miracle because we praise God with a loud voice. We don’t see the types of church services we once experienced just because of our worship. What we have to remember is that we receive God’s presence through our sacrifice. And that’s what David had to learn.
* Union with God takes place when we give our life to Him. It’s like marriage. I’m connected to Emily in a union called marriage. However, we experience love through our communion with each other. The amount we sacrifice so we can converse, go on dates, support each other, listen to each other will all determine how we experience love within that union. Union is given to us from God’s grace. Communion with him takes effort and sacrifice. We may have union with God but may never experience what we once did until we embrace communion with him. And this generally takes place as we serve Him by loving others in their needs and sharing our faith. It’s a sacrifice that moves God’s heart.
* As a church, we’ll never experience a move of God’s presence when we refuse to have an active communion with God. Communion with God is a sacrifice to serve him. It’s sharing our faith, inviting someone to church and participating in the giving in the needs of our community. This is what Israel wanted and God stopped it until they sacrificed. Union with Christ (Salvation) is free, but God’s active presence comes with a price.
* After sacrificing to his God, David successfully brought the presence of God back. The difference between receiving from God wasn’t their praise, it was in their sacrifice. Let that sink in. Israel attempted to get God’s presence through their passions. Uzzah died, not because he attempted to catch the ark, but because he did so in an irreverent way. In other words, Uzzah and Israel wanted God’s presence for their benefit, but weren’t considering what God may want of them. They wanted to use God’s presence to feel good again. Uzzah attempted to keep the presence of God from going a different direction. This attempt to catch the ark had little to do with keeping it from hitting the ground. Uzzah didn’t want the presence of God to stop there. He didn’t want to see what God would do. He wanted God to do for him and Israel what he wanted. It was to attempt to keep God’s presence in a manner that only benefited him. It was an attempt to get back to the good ole days and God wasn’t going to go back to their past the way they wanted. He wanted an active role in their future. They would benefit, but it wouldn’t happen the way they imagined.

*SUMMARY: Let me summarize this for us this morning. Evaluating our expectations can save us from a lot of disappointment.*

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| **APPLICATION** |

**TRANSITION**: Here’s what this means for us.

1. **IN GENERAL**: If you don’t have any expectations you won’t be disappointed. There you go. Have a great day. See you next week. Ok. That’s not going to work. We can’t help some disappointment. People will disappoint us and there’s very little you can do about that. Circumstances will disappoint us and there’s very little you can do there. However, we can address our self-inflicted disappointments. Evaluating our expectations creates balance in our lives. When we evaluate our expectations we tend to think through challenges. As we face realistic challenges our desire and determination can carry us forward instead of stop us dead in our tracks when we hit a bump in the road. When we find disappointment, we need to go back and reevaluate some things in our life. As we do we gain a healthy perspective and hiccups can more quickly be overcome by our desire and determination.
2. **PERSONAL STORY**: Let me go back to my story of the adoption. I know some who have tried to adopt and after initial failure and disappointment, they quit trying to adopt. The experience was too painful. Obviously they had unrealistic expectations. Since Emily and I prepared ourselves to not expect what we experienced in the messages I heard or the money someone gave us was a sign from God, we weren’t hurt as bad as we could have been when we learned of the baby’s death. Instead, we were disappointed for the sake of the mother. Further, we know God is still leading us to adopt, but God will provide that opportunity in his time. Let me take this a bit further now. The areas God moved in our lives wasn’t disconnected from the disappointing event that played out in our life. It actually has a greater roll than what we thought. God had a plan beyond ours. We just didn’t understand it as fully as we do now. You see, the mother is now staying in America. She was told she wasn’t welcome back home and that she was cursed. Now she’s trying to figure out how to move forward with two kids. She has to find a place to live with no money, no place to live, no job and no family. For this reason God was preparing us. This week, our church joined in helping meet this family’s needs. We bought groceries and connected her with people who have been where she is. We’re still working on housing and practical provisions, but this was the realistic voice of God speaking. My disappointment could have not only effected me, but my ability to connect to this mother.
3. **OUTSIDERS**: Some of us have been disappointed because God hasn’t done what we hoped he’d do. Our expectations of God can leave us disappointed when we don’t consider that God knows best. However, continuing to push through can lead us to an undeniable experience with God.
4. **INSIDERS**: Some of us have been disappointed by unrealistic expectations. As a church we must get back to the heart of why we chose to follow Christ and why it’s important that we follow him. Many of us would do well to deal with our disappointments and get back to communion with God. Some of us have stopped in our tracks and God hasn’t wanted us to stop. He just wants us to adjust. God is willing to fix up what is broken inside of us as a result of disappointment. And I invite you to allow him the opportunity to speak to you through a song I’m going to sing.

I’m going to sing a song about coming back to the heart of the matter. The heart of the matter should be to ask what God wants rather than assume and expect God to do what we want.

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| **LANDING (INSPIRATION)** |

Think about what life would be like if…

**Response: Prayer, Communion, Etc.**

Fixer Upper

Week 1- Disappointment

Week 2- Wrong Answers & Poor Questions

Week 3- In the meantime

Week 4- Soul Care